**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 53‑3‑85, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF THE NINETEENTH DAY OF JUNE OF EACH YEAR AS “JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM DAY”, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT ALSO IS RECOGNIZED AS “SICKLE CELL DAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA” IN COMMEMORATION OF “WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY”.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 53‑3‑85 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 228 of 2008, is amended to read:

“Section 53‑3‑85. (A) The nineteenth day of June of each year is designated as ‘Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom Day’ to commemorate and reflect on the freedom of African Americans and their contributions to this State and nation.

(B) In addition to the provisions of subsection (A), the nineteenth day June of each year also is recognized as ‘Sickle Cell Day in South Carolina’ in commemoration of ‘World Sickle Cell Day’ as created by the United Nations by resolution. The African Union (2005), the UNESCO (2005), the WHO (2006), and the United Nations (2008) recognize sickle cell disease as a public health priority with an estimated five hundred thousand persons born each year with the disease. The nineteenth day of June has been chosen to raise awareness of the genetic disease and support and encourage research, treatment, and management of sickle cell disease.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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