



## **NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE**

**May 8, 2019**

**Contact Name:** *Sara Persechino*

**Phone:** (603) 271-3479

**Email:** *Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us*

### **NH House Passes SB 174, to Recognize Juneteenth as a State Day of Reflection**

**CONCORD**—Today the New Hampshire House of Representatives passed SB 174 on a voice vote. This bill establishes Juneteenth as a day to reflect upon slavery's relation to the State of New Hampshire. SB 174 passed the Senate unanimously in February.

**Prime sponsor Senator Melanie Levesque (D-Nashua) released the following statement after the vote:**

“For enslaved people in America, the Fourth of July was not the day they became free. Nor was Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. News of emancipation did not reach slaves in Galveston, Texas for two and a half years. Juneteenth recognizes the day enslaved people in America were finally no longer held in bondage and all Americans were considered free. As the first African American state senator, I am proud of today’s bipartisan House vote to guarantee New Hampshire observes this historic day each year and look forward to Governor Sununu signing this important legislation.”

###