Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly

The bill establishes Juneteenth as a state legal holiday.

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)
hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Juneteenth National Independence Day, commonly known as Juneteenth, officially became the 11th federal holiday on June 17, 2021, and the first holiday to be added to the list of federal holidays since the recognition of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday in 1983;

(b) Juneteenth marks our country's second Independence day. Although it has long been celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans. For decades, many southern Black communities were forced to celebrate Juneteenth on the outskirts of town due to racism and Jim Crow laws. Early Juneteenth celebrations included church services, public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, and social events like rodeos and dances.

(c) Juneteenth, also known as Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, and Emancipation Day, commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordan Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of the Civil War and declared that more than two hundred fifty thousand enslaved Black people were free. Many enslavers in the state of Texas and other states had continued to hold enslaved people captive despite the Emancipation Proclamation having been issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863.

(d) On "Freedom's Eve", or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate states were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of
whom were Black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south
reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and spreading the
news of freedom in Confederate states.

(e) However, the news did not spread across many areas of the
nation, and slavery was not officially abolished nationally until the
ratification of the 13th Amendment to the constitution of the United
States. Juneteenth celebrations commemorate the liberation of men and
women and their descendants who were enslaved in areas that were not
made aware of the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation until almost
two and a half years later.

(f) Therefore, the general assembly declares the designation of
Juneteenth as a state legal holiday in remembrance of the rejoicement of
the day Black slaves in Texas and other states learned of their freedom.
The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up
hope in uncertain times.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 5-1-301, amend (6)
as follows:

5-1-301. General definitions. In addition to definitions appearing
in subsequent articles, as used in this code, unless the context otherwise
requires:

(6) "Business day" means any calendar day except Sunday, New
Year's day, the third Monday in January observed as the birthday of Dr.
Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington-Lincoln day, Memorial day,
JUNETEENTH, Independence day, Labor day, Frances Xavier Cabrini day,
Veterans' day, Thanksgiving day, and Christmas day.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-1-102, amend (2.5)
as follows:
6-1-102. Definitions. As used in this article 1, unless the context otherwise requires:

(2.5) "Business day" means any calendar day except Sunday, New Year's day, the third Monday in January observed as the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington-Lincoln day, Memorial day, JUNETEENTH, Independence day, Labor day, Frances Xavier Cabrini day, Veterans' day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-11-101, amend (1) as follows:

24-11-101. Legal holidays - effect. (1) The following days, viz:

The first day of January, commonly called New Year's day; the third Monday in January, which shall be observed as the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the third Monday in February, commonly called Washington-Lincoln day; the last Monday in May, commonly called Memorial day; THE NINETEENTH DAY OF JUNE, COMMONLY CALLED JUNETEENTH; the fourth day of July, commonly called Independence day; the first Monday in September, commonly called Labor day; the first Monday in October, commonly called Frances Xavier Cabrini day; the eleventh day of November, commonly called Veterans' day; the fourth Thursday in November, commonly called Thanksgiving day; the twenty-fifth day of December, commonly called Christmas day; and any day appointed or recommended by the governor of this state or the president of the United States as a day of fasting or prayer or thanksgiving, are hereby declared to be legal holidays and shall, for all purposes whatsoever, as regards the presenting for payment or acceptance and the protesting and giving notice of the dishonor of bills of exchange, drafts, bank checks, promissory notes, or other negotiable instruments and
also for the holding of courts, be treated and considered as is the first day
of the week commonly called Sunday.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.