



**This Bill Analysis  
reflects the contents  
of the bill as it was  
presented in  
committee.**

# HOUSE BILL 686: Freedom to Celebrate the Fourth of July.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b> Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b> June 19, 2020
<b>Introduced by:</b> Rep. Stevens	<b>Prepared by:</b> Jennifer Bedford
<b>Analysis of:</b> Third Edition	Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 686 would allow 4th of July parades and regulated firework displays.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Executive Order 141 prohibits outdoor mass gatherings for more than 25 people, including parades. The Order is currently set to expire June 26, 2020, but it may be extended or replaced with a similar Order.

## **BILL ANALYSIS:**

**Section 1** would prohibit an Executive Order or declaration prohibiting parades, or a firework displays done in accordance with the pyrotechnics' laws, to be held on the 4th of July.

**Section 2** would prohibit municipalities or counties from prohibiting a parade, or a firework display done in accordance with the pyrotechnics' laws, to be held on the 4th of July.

**Section 3** would protect a person from prosecution for the Class 2 misdemeanor of violating an Executive Order or local declaration, for attending or participating in a parade or firework display on the 4th of July.

**Section 4** would limit civil liability regarding the contraction of COVID-19, at a parade, or a firework display done in accordance with the pyrotechnics' laws, to be held on the 4th of July.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law and expires when any applicable declaration of emergency prohibitions and restrictions expire or are terminated to permit parades and firework displays on the 4th of July.

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