HOUSE BILL NO. 1633

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE FRIDAY PRECEDING THE SUNDAY CELEBRATED AS EASTER SUNDAY (GOOD FRIDAY) SHALL BE A LEGAL HOLIDAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 3-3-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, the following are declared to be legal holidays, viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's birthday); the Friday preceding the Sunday celebrated as Easter Sunday (Good Friday); the last Monday of April (Confederate Memorial Day); the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis' birthday); the fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first Monday of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November (Armistice or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the Governor of Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United States (Thanksgiving Day); and the twenty-fifth day of December (Christmas Day). In the event any holiday hereinbefore declared legal shall fall on Sunday, then the next following day shall be a legal holiday.

(2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third Monday in January (Robert E. Lee's and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday), the governing authorities of any municipality or county
may declare, by order spread upon its minutes, Mardi Gras Day or
any one (1) other day during the year, to be a legal holiday.

(3) August 16 is declared to be Elvis Aron Presley Day in
recognition and appreciation of Elvis Aron Presley's many
contributions, international recognition and the rich legacy left
to us by Elvis Aron Presley. This day shall be a day of
recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal
holiday.

(4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in
recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,
who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by
Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of
Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's
One Hundred Eighty-seven-day journey from the Tombigbee River
basin on our state's eastern boundary, westward to the place of
discovery of the Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall
be a day of commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando
de Soto and European exploration and shall not be recognized as a
legal holiday.

(5) Insofar as possible, Armistice Day shall be observed by
appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of
Mississippi at the eleventh hour in the morning of the eleventh
day of the eleventh month of the year.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2002.