

By: Representative Fleming

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 506

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE DAY ON WHICH THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR COUNTY AND
3 STATE ELECTIVE OFFICES IS HELD SHALL BE A STATE HOLIDAY; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)
9 of this section, the following are declared to be legal holidays,
10 viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday
11 of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King,
12 Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's
13 birthday); the last Monday of April (Confederate Memorial Day);
14 the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis'
15 birthday); the fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first
16 Monday of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November
17 (Armistice or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the
18 Governor of Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be
19 fixed to correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the
20 United States (Thanksgiving Day); * * * the twenty-fifth day of
21 December (Christmas Day); and the day on which the general
22 election for county and state elective offices is held. In the
23 event any holiday hereinbefore declared legal shall fall on
24 Sunday, then the next following day shall be a legal holiday.

25 (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in
26 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third
27 Monday in January (Robert E. Lee's and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
28 birthday), the governing authorities of any municipality or county

29 may declare, by order spread upon its minutes, Mardi Gras Day or
30 any one (1) other day during the year, to be a legal holiday.

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

37 (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando De Soto Day in
38 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando De Soto,
39 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by
40 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of
41 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's
42 187-day journey from the Tombigbee River basin on our state's
43 eastern boundary, westward to the place of discovery of the
44 Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of
45 commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando De Soto and
46 European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal
47 holiday.

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

52 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
53 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
54 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
55 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
56 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
57 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
58 extended.

59 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
61 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.