

By: Representatives Clark, Scott

To: Appropriations

## HOUSE BILL NO. 950

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT THE THIRD SATURDAY IN JUNE (JUNETEENTH NATIONAL  
3 FREEDOM DAY) SHALL BE DECLARED TO BE A LEGAL HOLIDAY; TO DESCRIBE  
4 JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY AND ITS LEGACY; TO CLARIFY THAT  
5 WHEN A LEGAL HOLIDAY FALLS ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY, THEN THE NEXT  
6 FOLLOWING MONDAY, OR OTHER DAY FIXED BY THE PROCLAMATION BY THE  
7 GOVERNOR AS THE DAY TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY, SHALL BE A LEGAL  
8 HOLIDAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

12 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)  
13 of this section, the following are declared to be legal holidays,  
14 viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday  
15 of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King,  
16 Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's  
17 birthday); the third Saturday of June (Juneteenth National Freedom  
18 Day); the fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first Monday  
19 of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November (Armistice  
20 or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the Governor  
21 of Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to  
22 correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United  
23 States (Thanksgiving Day); and the twenty-fifth day of December  
24 (Christmas Day). If any holiday \* \* \* declared legal \* \* \* falls  
25 on a Saturday or Sunday, then the next following Monday, or other  
26 day fixed by proclamation by the Governor as the day to celebrate  
27 the holiday, shall be a legal holiday.

28 (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in  
29 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third  
30 Monday in January (Robert E. Lee's and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s

31 birthday), the governing authorities of any municipality or county  
32 may declare, by order spread upon its minutes, Mardi Gras Day or  
33 any one (1) other day during the year, to be a legal holiday.

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

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

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

55 (6) Juneteenth National Freedom Day, provided for in  
56 subsection (1) of this section, is the oldest African-American  
57 holiday observed in the United States. It celebrates:

58 (a) The announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation  
59 by United States President Abraham Lincoln issued on September 22,  
60 1862, which provided that all persons held as slaves within  
61 certain designated states would be declared free on January 1,  
62 1863;

63           (b) The passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the  
64 United States Constitution on December 18, 1865, which officially  
65 ended slavery in the United States of America; and

66           (c) The communication to former slaves of African  
67 descent of the fact that slavery had ended, which became known  
68 throughout the nation by June of 1865.

69           Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates and recognizes  
70 the joy of former slaves when they learned of the message of their  
71 freedom, and this holiday is a reminder to all Americans of the  
72 contributions and legacy of Americans of African descent.

73           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
74 and after July 1, 2005.