

By: Representatives Clark, Straughter

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 509

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY SHALL BE A DAY OF
3 COMMEMORATION AND RECOGNITION; TO DESCRIBE JUNETEENTH NATIONAL
4 FREEDOM DAY AND ITS LEGACY; AND FOR 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 fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first
14 Monday of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November
15 (Armistice or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the
16 Governor of Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be
17 fixed to correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the
18 United States (Thanksgiving Day); and the twenty-fifth day of
19 December (Christmas Day). If any holiday * * * declared
20 legal * * * falls on Sunday, then the next following day shall be
21 a legal holiday.

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

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

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

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

49 (6) June 19 is declared to be Juneteenth National Freedom
50 Day. It is the oldest African-American holiday observed in the
51 United States. It celebrates:

52 (a) The announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation
53 by United States President Abraham Lincoln issued on September 22,
54 1862, which provided that all persons held as slaves within
55 certain designated states would be declared free on January 1,
56 1863;

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

60 (c) The communication to former slaves of African
61 descent of the fact that slavery had ended, which became known
62 throughout the nation by June of 1865. This day shall be a day of
63 commemoration, recognition and observation of Juneteenth National
64 Freedom Day and shall not be recognized as a legal holiday.

65 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
66 and after July 1, 2007.