

By: Representative Straughter

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 383

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DECLARE FEBRUARY 7 TO BE MISSISSIPPI DAY OF FREEDOM AND
3 ABOLISHMENT OF SLAVERY, IN RECOGNITION OF MISSISSIPPI'S
4 RATIFICATION OF THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES
5 CONSTITUTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

9 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)
10 of this section, the following are declared to be legal
11 holidays * * *:

12 (a) The first day of January, designated as New Year's
13 Day;

14 (b) The third Monday of January, designated as both
15 Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
16 birthday;

17 (c) The third Monday of February, designated as George
18 Washington's birthday;



19 (d) The last Monday of April, designated as Confederate
20 Memorial Day;

21 (e) The last Monday of May, designated as both National
22 Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis' birthday;

23 (f) The fourth day of July, designated as Independence
24 Day;

25 (g) The first Monday of September, designated as Labor
26 Day;

27 (h) The eleventh day of November, designated as
28 Armistice or Veterans' Day;

29 (i) The day fixed by proclamation by the Governor of
30 Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to
31 correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United
32 States, designated as Thanksgiving Day; and

33 (j) The twenty-fifth day of December, designated as
34 Christmas Day.

35 * * * If any holiday * * * falls on Sunday, then the next
36 following day shall be a legal holiday.

37 (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in
38 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third
39 Monday in January, designated as both Robert E. Lee's and Martin
40 Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, and the eleventh day of November,
41 designated as Armistice or Veterans' Day, the governing
42 authorities of any municipality or county may declare, by order



43 spread upon its minutes, Mardi Gras Day or any one (1) other day
44 during the year, to be a legal holiday.

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

51 (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in
52 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,
53 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by
54 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of
55 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's
56 187-day journey from the Tombigbee River basin on our state's
57 eastern boundary, westward to the place of discovery of the
58 Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of
59 commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando de Soto and
60 European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal
61 holiday.

62 (5) February 7 is declared to be Mississippi Day of Freedom
63 and Abolishment of Slavery, in recognition, observation and
64 commemoration of Mississippi's ratification of the Thirteenth
65 Amendment to the United States Constitution. This day shall be a
66 day to celebrate Mississippi's freedom from slavery, and shall not
67 be recognized as a legal holiday.



68 (* * *6) Armistice * * * or Veterans' Day shall be observed
69 by appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of
70 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school
71 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed
72 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen
73 military personnel/veterans at such public school exercises in
74 honor of Armistice or Veterans' Day. The superintendent of
75 schools is also authorized to permit the school band and its
76 director(s) at any public school in the district to perform at
77 Armistice or Veterans' Day exercises in the school district upon
78 the request of public officials or veterans associations without
79 loss of any program credit by participating students and without
80 loss of leave by participating school personnel.

81 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
82 and after July 1, 2022.

