

By: Representative Karriem

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 762

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REMOVE ROBERT E. LEE'S BIRTHDAY AS A LEGAL STATE HOLIDAY; TO
3 REMOVE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY AS A LEGAL STATE HOLIDAY; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature desires to reflect the
6 transformative power of Mississippi from its past to its present
7 by celebrating holidays that wholly reflect the remarkable strides
8 made by all citizens; NOW, THEREFORE,

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
14 holidays * * *:

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

17 (b) The third Monday of January * * *, designated as
18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday;



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

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

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

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

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

29 (h) 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 (i) The twenty-fifth day of December, designated as
34 Christmas Day.

35 * * * If any legal holiday * * * falls on a Sunday, then the
36 next 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 Dr. Martin Luther King,
40 Jr.'s birthday, and the eleventh day of November, designated as
41 Armistice or Veterans' Day, the governing authorities of any
42 municipality or county may declare, by order spread upon its



43 minutes, Mardi Gras Day or any one (1) other day during the year,
44 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) Armistice * * * or Veterans' Day shall be observed by
63 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of
64 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school
65 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed
66 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen
67 military personnel/veterans at such public school exercises in



68 honor of Armistice * * * or Veterans' Day. The superintendent of
69 schools is also authorized to permit the school band and its
70 director(s) at any public school in the district to perform at
71 Armistice * * * or Veterans' Day exercises in the school district
72 upon the request of public officials or veterans associations
73 without loss of any program credit by participating students and
74 without loss of leave by participating school personnel.

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

