

By: Senator(s) Simmons (12th), Blount,
Norwood, Jackson (11th), Jordan, Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2827

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE LEGAL HOLIDAYS BY REMOVING CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY AND
3 DESIGNATING THE NINETEENTH DAY OF JUNE AS JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY;
4 TO CLARIFY WHEN A LEGAL HOLIDAY WILL BE CELEBRATED IF THE HOLIDAY
5 FALLS ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY; 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 holidays,
11 viz:

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 * * *



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

22 (e) The nineteenth day of June, designated as
23 Juneteenth Freedom Day;

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

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

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

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

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

36 * * * If any legal holiday * * * falls on a Saturday or
37 Sunday, then the next following * * * Monday, or another day
38 declared by proclamation of the Governor as the day to celebrate
39 the holiday, shall be a legal holiday.

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



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

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

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

65 (5) Armistice Day or Veterans' Day shall be observed by
66 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of
67 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school
68 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed
69 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen



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

78 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
79 and after its passage.

