

By: Representatives Karriem, Clark, Porter, To: Rules  
Faulkner, Hines, James-Jones, Holloway  
(27th), Osborne, Sanders, Hulum, Harness,  
Anthony, Rosebud, Johnson, Bailey, Butler-  
Washinton, Banks, Bell (65th), Blackmon,  
Crudup, Denton, Gibbs (72nd), Mickens, Thompson

HOUSE BILL NO. 51

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 EXCLUSIVELY RECOGNIZE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY ON  
3 THE THIRD MONDAY OF JANUARY; TO REMOVE ROBERT E. LEE'S BIRTHDAY AS  
4 A LEGAL STATE HOLIDAY; AND FOR 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 April, designated as Confederate  
22 Memorial Day;

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

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

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

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

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

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

37           \* \* \* If any legal holiday \* \* \* falls on a Sunday, then the  
38 next following day shall be a legal holiday.

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



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

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

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

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



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

77         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
78 and after July 1, 2024.

