

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

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 68

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 OBSERVE ROBERT E. LEE'S BIRTHDAY
4 ON THE SAME DAY AS CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY; TO REMOVE CONFEDERATE
5 MEMORIAL DAY AS A LEGAL STATE HOLIDAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

13 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)
14 of this section, the following are declared to be legal
15 holidays * * *:

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

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



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

22 (d) The last Monday of April, designated as Confederate
23 Memorial Day and Robert E. Lee's birthday;

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 * * * If any legal holiday * * * falls on a Sunday, then the
39 next following day 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 Dr. Martin Luther King,
43 Jr.'s birthday, and the eleventh day of November, designated as
44 Armistice or Veterans' Day, the governing authorities of any



45 municipality or county may declare, by order spread upon its
46 minutes, Mardi Gras Day or any one (1) other day during the year,
47 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 * * * 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
75 upon the request of public officials or veterans associations
76 without loss of any program credit by participating students and
77 without loss of leave by participating school personnel.

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

