

By: Representative Osborne

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 122

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE STATE HOLIDAYS TO REMOVE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY AS A
3 LEGAL HOLIDAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 * * *

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



19 (e) The fourth day of July, designated as Independence
20 Day;

21 (f) The first Monday of September, designated as Labor
22 Day;

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

25 (h) The day fixed by proclamation by the Governor of
26 Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to
27 correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United
28 States, designated as Thanksgiving Day; and

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

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

33 (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in
34 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third
35 Monday in January, designated as Robert E. Lee's and Dr. Martin
36 Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and the eleventh day of November,
37 designated as Armistice or Veterans' Day, the governing
38 authorities of any municipality or county may declare, by order
39 spread upon its minutes, Mardi Gras Day or any one (1) other day
40 during the year, to be a legal holiday.

41 (3) August 16 is declared to be Elvis Aaron Presley Day in
42 recognition and appreciation of Elvis Aaron Presley's many
43 contributions, international recognition and the rich legacy left



44 to us by Elvis Aaron Presley. This day shall be a day of
45 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal
46 holiday.

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

58 (5) Armistice * * * or Veterans' Day shall be observed by
59 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of
60 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school
61 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed
62 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen
63 military personnel/veterans at such public school exercises in
64 honor of Armistice or Veterans' Day. The superintendent of
65 schools is also authorized to permit the school band and its
66 director(s) at any public school in the district to perform at
67 Armistice or Veterans' Day exercises in the school district upon
68 the request of public officials or veterans associations without



69 loss of any program credit by participating students and without
70 loss of leave by participating school personnel.

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

