

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 124

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DESIGNATE THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF MARCH AS TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY IN
3 MISSISSIPPI; 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 holidays,
9 viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday
10 of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King,
11 Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's
12 birthday); the last Monday of April (Confederate Memorial Day);
13 the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis'
14 birthday); the fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first
15 Monday of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November
16 (Armistice or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the
17 Governor of Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be
18 fixed to correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the



19 United States (Thanksgiving Day); and the twenty-fifth day of
20 December (Christmas Day). In the event any holiday hereinbefore
21 declared legal shall fall on Sunday, then the next following day
22 shall be a legal holiday.

23 (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in
24 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third
25 Monday in January (Robert E. Lee's and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
26 birthday) and the eleventh day of November (Armistice or Veterans'
27 Day), the governing authorities of any municipality or county may
28 declare, by order spread upon its minutes, Mardi Gras Day or any
29 one (1) other day during the year, to be a legal holiday.

30 (3) August 16 is declared to be Elvis Aaron Presley Day in
31 recognition and appreciation of Elvis Aaron Presley's many
32 contributions, international recognition and the rich legacy left
33 to us by Elvis Aaron Presley. This day shall be a day of
34 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal
35 holiday.

36 (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in
37 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,
38 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by
39 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of
40 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's
41 187-day journey from the Tombigbee River basin on our state's
42 eastern boundary, westward to the place of discovery of the
43 Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of



44 commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando de Soto and
45 European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal
46 holiday.

47 (5) Armistice Day (Veterans' Day) shall be observed by
48 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of
49 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school
50 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed
51 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen
52 military personnel/veterans at such public school exercises in
53 honor of Armistice (Veterans') Day. The superintendent of schools
54 is also authorized to permit the school band and its director(s)
55 at any public school in the district to perform at Armistice
56 (Veterans') Day exercises in the school district upon the request
57 of public officials or veterans associations without loss of any
58 program credit by participating students and without loss of leave
59 by participating school personnel.

60 (6) In recognition of the service, courage and sacrifice of
61 the valiant service members of the Tuskegee Airmen who served
62 during World War II, the fourth Thursday of March is designated as
63 Tuskegee Airmen Day in Mississippi. This should be a day of
64 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal
65 holiday.

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

