

By: Representative McGee

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 365

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF MARCH EACH YEAR AS "MISSISSIPPI MUSICIANS
3 MONTH"; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, Mississippi has become recognized nationally as the
5 "Birthplace of America's Music", and the State of Mississippi has
6 had a global impact on music, both as an art form, and within the
7 music industry; and

8 WHEREAS, Mississippi's music, as well as many of its musical
9 performers, composers and songwriters, are known worldwide, and
10 there is no mainstream commercial musical genre that has not been
11 influenced by Mississippi, particularly in the genres of Blues,
12 Rock & Roll, Country, Rhythm & Blues, Gospel and Jazz; and

13 WHEREAS, Mississippi has produced more Grammy Award winners
14 per capita than any other state, and there are numerous
15 Mississippi musical performers, composers, and songwriters that
16 have had a global impact, including: Robert Johnson, Jimmie
17 Rodgers, B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Elvis Presley, Charley Pride,
18 Leontyne Price, Marty Stuart, Faith Hill, Craig Wiseman and many



19 others, and because of their musical work and contributions, many
20 Mississippi musicians' names have become household names
21 throughout the nation and the world; and

22 WHEREAS, by designating the month of March each year as
23 Mississippi Musicians' Month, everyone will have an annual
24 opportunity to recognize and celebrate Mississippi's numerous
25 outstanding past and present musical artists; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

29 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)
30 of this section, the following are declared to be legal holidays,
31 viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday
32 of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King,
33 Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's
34 birthday); the last Monday of April (Confederate Memorial Day);
35 the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis'
36 birthday); the fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first
37 Monday of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November
38 (Armistice or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the
39 Governor of Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be
40 fixed to correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the
41 United States (Thanksgiving Day); and the twenty-fifth day of
42 December (Christmas Day). In the event any holiday hereinbefore



43 declared legal shall fall on Sunday, then the next following day
44 shall be a legal holiday.

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

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

58 (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in
59 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,
60 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by
61 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of
62 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's
63 187-day journey from the Tombigbee River basin on our state's
64 eastern boundary, westward to the place of discovery of the
65 Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of
66 commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando de Soto and



67 European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal
68 holiday.

69 (5) Armistice Day (Veterans' Day) shall be observed by
70 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of
71 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school
72 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed
73 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen
74 military personnel/veterans at such public school exercises in
75 honor of Armistice (Veterans') Day. The superintendent of schools
76 is also authorized to permit the school band and its director(s)
77 at any public school in the district to perform at Armistice
78 (Veterans') Day exercises in the school district upon the request
79 of public officials or veterans associations without loss of any
80 program credit by participating students and without loss of leave
81 by participating school personnel.

82 (6) The month of March is declared to be "Mississippi
83 Musicians Month" to recognize and celebrate the state's rich
84 musical heritage and to encourage the world to join Mississippi in
85 honoring our musicians and their contributions.

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

