

By: Representative Arnold

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 642

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 DECLARE SEPTEMBER 11 OF EACH YEAR TO BE PATRIOT'S DAY IN  
3 REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORIST  
4 ATTACKS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)  
9 of this section, the following are declared to be legal holidays,  
10 viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday  
11 of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King,  
12 Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's  
13 birthday); the last Monday of April (Confederate Memorial Day);  
14 the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis'  
15 birthday); the fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first  
16 Monday of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November  
17 (Armistice or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the  
18 Governor of Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be  
19 fixed to correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the



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

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

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

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



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

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

61 (6) September 11 is declared to be Patriot's Day in  
62 remembrance of the 2,977 people killed and the numerous people who  
63 were injured during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001,  
64 in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania.

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

