

By: Representative Crawford

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 883

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 DECLARE THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH OCTOBER AS A DAY OF OBSERVANCE  
3 IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO BE PROCLAIMED "INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'  
4 DAY"; 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  
10 holidays \* \* \*: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the  
11 third Monday of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin  
12 Luther King, Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February  
13 (Washington's birthday); the last Monday of April (Confederate  
14 Memorial Day); the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and  
15 Jefferson Davis' birthday); the fourth day of July (Independence  
16 Day); the first Monday of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day  
17 of November (Armistice or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by  
18 proclamation by the Governor of Mississippi as a day of  
19 Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to correspond to the date



20 proclaimed by the President of the United States (Thanksgiving  
21 Day); and the twenty-fifth day of December (Christmas Day). In  
22 the event any holiday \* \* \* declared legal in this subsection  
23 shall fall on Sunday, then the next following day shall be a legal  
24 holiday.

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

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

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



45 Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of  
46 commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando de Soto and  
47 European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal  
48 holiday.

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

62 (6) The second Monday in October is declared to be Native  
63 American or Indigenous Peoples' Day in recognition, observation  
64 and commemoration of Native American Indian heritage and the  
65 traditional ways of the culture in an effort to bring more  
66 awareness to the unique, rich history of this nation that is  
67 inextricably tied to the first people of this country and predates  
68 the voyage of Christopher Columbus. The designation of this  
69 observation further recognizes American Indians and Alaskan



70 Natives as thriving, contemporary sovereign nations who have  
71 greatly contributed to the Constitution and foundation of the  
72 United States by contributing to the social and cultural  
73 enrichment of the quality of the American way of life, and who  
74 hold a rightful place among the American family of governments.  
75 This day shall be a day of commemoration, recognition and  
76 observation of Native Americans and Indigenous People, who are the  
77 first inhabitants of this country, and shall not be recognized as  
78 a legal holiday.

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

