

By: Representative Clark

To: Rules

## HOUSE BILL NO. 434

1       AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 DESIGNATE JUNE 19 AS "JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY"; TO SPECIFICALLY  
3 PROVIDE THAT JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY SHALL NOT BE A LEGAL HOLIDAY,  
4 BUT SHALL BE A DAY TO COMMEMORATE FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY AT NO  
5 EXPENSE TO THE STATE; TO PROVIDE WHEN A LEGAL HOLIDAY WILL BE  
6 CELEBRATED IF THE HOLIDAY FALLS ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY; AND FOR  
7 RELATED PURPOSES.

8       WHEREAS, the date of June 19 is known as "Juneteenth," and it  
9 is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of  
10 slavery in the United States; and

11       WHEREAS, the commemoration of June 19 as Juneteenth  
12 specifically refers to the fact that, even though President  
13 Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the  
14 joyous news of freedom from slavery did not reach certain  
15 Americans in Galveston, Texas, until June 19, 1865; and

16       WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates freedom from slavery in  
17 America, emphasizes education and achievement and is a day for  
18 reflection and rejoicing in the African-American experience; and

19       WHEREAS, the celebration of Juneteenth is inclusive of all  
20 races, ethnicities, religions and nationalities, and citizens



21 across our country may join hands in acknowledging a period in our  
22 history that has influenced our society, a great society that  
23 advances the ideals of liberty and justice for all; NOW,  
24 THEREFORE,

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

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

28 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)  
29 of this section, the following are declared to be legal  
30 holidays \* \* \*:

31                   (a) The first day of January (New Year's Day);

32                   (b) The third Monday of January (Robert E. Lee's  
33 birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday);

34                   (c) The third Monday of February (Washington's  
35 birthday);

36                   (d) The last Monday of April (Confederate Memorial  
37 Day);

38                   (e) The last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and  
39 Jefferson Davis' birthday);

40                   (f) The fourth day of July (Independence Day);

41                   (g) The first Monday of September (Labor Day);

42                   (h) The eleventh day of November (Armistice or  
43 Veterans' Day);

44                   (i) The day fixed by proclamation by the Governor of  
45 Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to



46 correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United  
47 States (Thanksgiving Day); and

49                   \* \* \* If any legal holiday \* \* \* falls on Sunday, then the  
50 next following \* \* \* Monday, or another day declared by  
51 proclamation of the Governor as the day to celebrate the holiday,  
52 shall be a legal holiday.

67 (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in  
68 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,  
69 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by  
70 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of

71 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's  
72 187-day journey from the Tombigbee River basin on our state's  
73 eastern boundary, westward to the place of discovery of the  
74 Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of  
75 commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando de Soto and  
76 European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal  
77 holiday.

78 (5) June 19 is declared to be Juneteenth Freedom Day in  
79 recognition and commemoration of June 19, 1865, as the date former  
80 slaves of African descent received communication that slavery had  
81 ended in America, and as a day when the ideals of liberty and  
82 justice for all citizens is celebrated. This day shall be a day  
83 of commemoration, recognition and observation and shall not be  
84 recognized as a legal holiday.

85 (6) Armistice Day or Veterans' Day shall be observed by  
86 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of  
87 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school  
88 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed  
89 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen  
90 military personnel/veterans at such public school exercises in  
91 honor of Armistice or Veterans' Day. The superintendent of  
92 schools is also authorized to permit the school band and its  
93 director(s) at any public school in the district to perform at  
94 Armistice or Veterans' Day exercises in the school district upon  
95 the request of public officials or veterans associations without



96 loss of any program credit by participating students and without  
97 loss of leave by participating school personnel.

98 ( \* \* \*7) The month of March is declared to be "Mississippi  
99 Musicians Month" to recognize and celebrate the state's rich  
100 musical heritage and to encourage the world to join Mississippi in  
101 honoring our musicians and their contributions.

102 ( \* \* \*8) In recognition of the service, courage and  
103 sacrifice of the valiant service members of the Tuskegee Airmen  
104 who served during World War II, the fourth Thursday of March is  
105 designated as Tuskegee Airmen Day in Mississippi. This should be  
106 a day of recognition and observation and shall not be recognized  
107 as a legal holiday.

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

