

By: Representative Clark

To: County Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 538

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DAYS FROM ONE TO TWO THAT THE BOARD OF
3 SUPERVISORS OF ANY COUNTY AND THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF ANY
4 MUNICIPALITY MAY DECLARE AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY IN LIEU OF CERTAIN
5 OTHER LEGAL HOLIDAYS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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



fixed to correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United States (Thanksgiving Day); and the twenty-fifth day of December (Christmas Day). In the event any holiday hereinbefore declared legal shall fall on Sunday, then the next following day shall be a legal holiday.

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

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

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



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

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

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

67 (7) In recognition of the service, courage and sacrifice of
68 the valiant service members of the Tuskegee Airmen who served
69 during World War II, the fourth Thursday of March is designated as



70 Tuskegee Airmen Day in Mississippi. This should be a day of
71 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal
72 holiday.

73 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
74 and after July 1, 2025.

