

By: Representatives Ford (73rd), Felsher

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 702

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS
3 MONTH IN MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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



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

23 (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in
24 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third
25 Monday in January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Martin Luther
26 King, Jr.'s birthday) and the eleventh day of November (Armistice
27 or Veterans' Day), the governing authorities of any municipality
28 or county may declare, by order spread upon its minutes, Mardi
29 Gras Day or any one (1) other day during the year, to be a legal
30 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) The month of March is declared to be "Mississippi
62 Musicians Month" to recognize and celebrate the state's rich
63 musical heritage and to encourage the world to join Mississippi in
64 honoring our musicians and their contributions.

65 (7) In recognition of the service, courage and sacrifice of
66 the valiant service members of the Tuskegee Airmen who served
67 during World War II, the fourth Thursday of March is designated as
68 Tuskegee Airmen Day in Mississippi. This should be a day of



69 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal
70 holiday.

71 (8) The month of October is designated as Bullying
72 Prevention Awareness Month in Mississippi, and is a month-long
73 observance to educate and raise awareness about bullying and
74 cyberbullying prevention. This month shall be a month of
75 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal
76 holiday.

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

