

By: Representative Crawford

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1291

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 birthday and Martin Luther
28 King, Jr.'s birthday) and the eleventh day of November (Armistice
29 or Veterans' Day), the governing authorities of any municipality
30 or county may declare, by order spread upon its minutes, Mardi
31 Gras Day or any one (1) other day during the year, to be a legal
32 holiday.

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

39 (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in
40 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,
41 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by
42 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of
43 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's
44 187-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



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

(8) The second Monday in October is declared to be Native American or Indigenous Peoples' Day in recognition, observation and commemoration of Native American Indian heritage and the traditional ways of the culture in an effort to bring more awareness to the unique, rich history of this nation that is inextricably tied to the first people of this country and predates the voyage of Christopher Columbus. The designation of this observation further recognizes American Indians and Alaskan Natives as thriving, contemporary sovereign nations who have greatly contributed to the Constitution and foundation of the United States by contributing to the social and cultural enrichment of the quality of the American way of life, and who holds a rightful place among the American family of governments. This day shall be a day of commemoration, recognition and observation of Native Americans and Indigenous People, who are the first inhabitants of this country, and shall not be recognized as a legal holiday.

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

