

By: Representative Ellzey

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 297

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE FRIDAY PRECEDING THE SUNDAY CELEBRATED AS EASTER
3 SUNDAY (GOOD FRIDAY) SHALL BE A LEGAL HOLIDAY; AND FOR RELATED
4 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 holidays,
10 viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday
11 of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King,
12 Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's
13 birthday); the Friday preceding the Sunday celebrated as Easter
14 Sunday (Good Friday); the last Monday of April (Confederate
15 Memorial Day); the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and
16 Jefferson Davis' birthday); the fourth day of July (Independence
17 Day); the first Monday of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day
18 of November (Armistice or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by
19 proclamation by the Governor of Mississippi as a day of
20 Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to correspond to the date
21 proclaimed by the President of the United States (Thanksgiving
22 Day); and the twenty-fifth day of December (Christmas Day). In
23 the event any holiday hereinbefore declared legal shall fall on
24 Sunday, then the next following day shall be a legal 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), the governing authorities of any municipality or county



29 may declare, by order spread upon its minutes, Mardi Gras Day or
30 any one (1) other day during the year, to be a legal holiday.

31 (3) August 16 is declared to be Elvis Aron Presley Day in
32 recognition and appreciation of Elvis Aron Presley's many
33 contributions, international recognition and the rich legacy left
34 to us by Elvis Aron 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 One Hundred Eighty-seven-day journey from the Tombigbee River
43 basin on our state's eastern boundary, westward to the place of
44 discovery of the Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall
45 be a day of commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando
46 de Soto and European exploration and shall not be recognized as a
47 legal holiday.

48 (5) Insofar as possible, Armistice Day shall be observed by
49 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of
50 Mississippi at the eleventh hour in the morning of the eleventh
51 day of the eleventh month of the year.

52 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
53 and after July 1, 2002.

