

By: Senator(s) Jordan

To: Fees, Salaries and  
Administration;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2705

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT THE THIRD SATURDAY IN JUNE (JUNETEENTH NATIONAL  
3 FREEDOM DAY) SHALL BE DECLARED TO BE A LEGAL HOLIDAY; TO DESCRIBE  
4 JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY AND ITS LEGACY; TO CLARIFY THAT  
5 WHEN A LEGAL HOLIDAY FALLS ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY, THEN THE NEXT  
6 FOLLOWING MONDAY, OR OTHER DAY FIXED BY THE PROCLAMATION BY THE  
7 GOVERNOR AS THE DAY TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY, SHALL BE A LEGAL  
8 HOLIDAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

12 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)  
13 of this section, the following are declared to be legal holidays,  
14 viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday  
15 of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King,  
16 Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's  
17 birthday); the last Monday of April (Confederate Memorial Day);  
18 the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis'  
19 birthday); the third Saturday of June (Juneteenth National Freedom  
20 Day); the fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first Monday  
21 of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November (Armistice  
22 or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the Governor  
23 of Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to  
24 correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United  
25 States (Thanksgiving Day); and the twenty-fifth day of December  
26 (Christmas Day). In the event any holiday hereinbefore declared  
27 legal shall fall on a Saturday or Sunday, then the next following  
28 Monday, or other day fixed by proclamation by the Governor as the  
29 day to celebrate the holiday, shall be a legal holiday.



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

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

42           (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in  
43 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,  
44 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by  
45 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of  
46 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's  
47 One Hundred Eighty-seven-day journey from the Tombigbee River  
48 basin on our state's eastern boundary, westward to the place of  
49 discovery of the Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall  
50 be a day of commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando  
51 de Soto and European exploration and shall not be recognized as a  
52 legal holiday.

53           (5) Insofar as possible, Armistice Day shall be observed by  
54 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of  
55 Mississippi at the eleventh hour in the morning of the eleventh  
56 day of the eleventh month of the year.

57           (6) Juneteenth National Freedom Day, provided for in  
58 subsection (1) of this section, is the oldest African-American  
59 holiday observed in the United states. It celebrates:

60           (a) The announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation  
61 by United States President Abraham Lincoln issued on September 22,  
62 1862, which provided that all persons held as slaves within



63 certain designated states would be declared free on January 1,  
64 1863;

65 (b) The passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the  
66 United States Constitution on December 18, 1865, which officially  
67 ended slavery in the United States of America; and

68 (c) The communication to former slaves of African  
69 descent of the fact that slavery had ended, which became known  
70 throughout the nation by June of 1865.

71 Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates and recognizes  
72 the joy of former slaves when they learned of the message of their  
73 freedom, and this holiday is a reminder to all Americans of the  
74 contributions and legacy of Americans of African descent.

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

