

By: Representatives Karriem, Taylor,  
Summers, Clark, Sanders

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 825

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 EXCLUSIVELY RECOGNIZE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY ON  
3 THE THIRD MONDAY OF JANUARY; TO REMOVE ROBERT E. LEE'S BIRTHDAY AS  
4 A LEGAL STATE HOLIDAY; TO REMOVE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY AS A  
5 LEGAL STATE HOLIDAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature desires to reflect the  
7 transformative power of Mississippi from its past to its present  
8 by celebrating holidays that wholly reflect the remarkable strides  
9 made by all citizens; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

13 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)  
14 of this section, the following are declared to be legal  
15 holidays \* \* \*:

16 (a) The first day of January, designated as New Year's  
17 Day;

18 (b) The third Monday of January \* \* \*, designated as  
19 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday;



20           (c) The third Monday of February, designated as George  
21 Washington's birthday;

22           (d) \* \* \* The last Monday of May, designated as both  
23 National Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis' birthday;

24           (e) The fourth day of July, designated as Independence  
25 Day;

26           (f) The first Monday of September, designated as Labor  
27 Day;

28           (g) The eleventh day of November, designated as  
29 Armistice or Veterans' Day;

30           (h) The day fixed by proclamation by the Governor of  
31 Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to  
32 correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United  
33 States, designated as Thanksgiving Day; and

34           (i) The twenty-fifth day of December, designated as  
35 Christmas Day.

36           \* \* \* If any legal holiday \* \* \* falls on a Sunday, then the  
37 next following day shall be a legal holiday.

38           (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in  
39 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third  
40 Monday in January \* \* \*, designated as Dr. Martin Luther King,  
41 Jr.'s birthday, and the eleventh day of November, designated as  
42 Armistice or Veterans' Day, the governing authorities of any  
43 municipality or county may declare, by order spread upon its



44 minutes, Mardi Gras Day or any one (1) other day during the year,  
45 to be a legal holiday.

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

52 (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in  
53 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,  
54 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by  
55 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of  
56 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's  
57 187-day journey from the Tombigbee River basin on our state's  
58 eastern boundary, westward to the place of discovery of the  
59 Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of  
60 commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando de Soto and  
61 European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal  
62 holiday.

63 (5) Armistice \* \* \* or Veterans' Day shall be observed by  
64 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of  
65 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school  
66 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed  
67 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen  
68 military personnel/veterans at such public school exercises in



69 honor of Armistice \* \* \* or Veterans' Day. The superintendent of  
70 schools is also authorized to permit the school band and its  
71 director(s) at any public school in the district to perform at  
72 Armistice \* \* \* or Veterans' Day exercises in the school district  
73 upon the request of public officials or veterans associations  
74 without loss of any program credit by participating students and  
75 without loss of leave by participating school personnel.

76         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
77 and after July 1, 2023.

