

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: H1/27/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1113

By: Representatives Bell, Ballinger, Blake, V. Flowers

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAYS; TO ELIMINATE THE DUAL STATUS OF THE STATE HOLIDAY CELEBRATING ROBERT E. LEE'S BIRTHDAY ON THE SAME DAY AS THE STATE HOLIDAY CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ELIMINATE THE DUAL STATUS OF THE STATE HOLIDAY CELEBRATING ROBERT E. LEE'S BIRTHDAY ON THE SAME DAY AS THE STATE HOLIDAY CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Findings and legislative intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The State of Arkansas has a very proud and distinguished southern culture and heritage; and

(2) The state should maintain and celebrate its culture and heritage, including its military leaders, while continuing to recognize and celebrate other events and days of state and federal historical significance.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly by the enactment of this act to maintain and celebrate the state southern culture, heritage, and military leaders while continuing to honor, observe, and celebrate other days and events of state and federal historical significance.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 1-5-101(a)(2), concerning official state holidays, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday and ~~Robert E. Lee's Birthday~~ – the third Monday in January;

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 1-5-106(9), concerning the Jefferson Davis Birthday memorial day to be commemorated by gubernatorial proclamation, is repealed.

~~(9) Jefferson Davis' Birthday – June 3;~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 1-5-106, concerning state memorial days to be commemorated by gubernatorial proclamation, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(12) Patrick Cleburne - Robert E. Lee Southern Heritage Day – November 30.

*SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-16-107 is amended to read as follows:
6-16-107. Patriotic observances generally.*

(a) February 22, as the birthday of George Washington, ~~and January 19, as the birthday of Robert E. Lee,~~ and such other days as may be designated by the State Board of Education for patriotic observance shall be observed with appropriate exercises.

(b) ~~Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing~~ This section does not authorize the closing of any school on such days without consent of the board of directors of the school district.

/s/Bell