

Regular Session, 2004

HOUSE BILL NO. 20

BY REPRESENTATIVE SHEPHERD

HOLIDAYS: Designates Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday as a mandatory state holiday

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 1:55(B)(1)(a) and (2), relative to legal holidays observed by the
3 departments of the state; to provide that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday shall
4 be a state legal holiday; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 1:55(B)(1)(a) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 §55. Days of public rest, legal holidays, and half-holidays

9 * * *

10 B. Legal holidays shall be observed by the departments of the state as follows:

11 (1)(a) Insofar as may be practicable in the administration of the government,
12 no employee shall work on New Year's Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday,
13 Mardi Gras Day, Good Friday, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans' Day,
14 Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Inauguration Day once in every four years in the
15 city of Baton Rouge, or General Election Day every two years.

16 * * *

17 (2) ~~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday~~, Robert E. Lee Day, Washington's
18 Birthday, National Memorial Day, Confederate Memorial Day, and Huey P. Long
19 Day shall be observed only in such manner as the governor may proclaim, considering
20 the pressure of the state's business; ~~provided~~, however, ~~that~~ not more than two such

1 legal holidays shall be proclaimed in any one year, one of which shall be National
2 Memorial Day. ~~The governor shall call as a state holiday at least once every two years~~
3 ~~the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.~~

4 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Shepherd

HB No. 20

Abstract: Provides that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday shall be a legal holiday and observed by the departments of the state.

Present law provides that insofar as may be practicable in the administration of the government, legal holidays shall be observed by the departments of the state, and no employee shall work on New Year's Day, Mardi Gras Day, Good Friday, Independence Day, Christmas Day, Inauguration Day once in every four years in the city of Baton Rouge, or General Election Day every two years.

Present law authorizes the governor to proclaim two additional legal holidays each year, one of which is required to be National Memorial Day and requires that the governor call as a state holiday at least once every two years the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Proposed law enumerates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a legal holiday required to be observed by the departments of the state.

(Amends R.S. 1:55(B)(1)(a) and (2))