

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 61

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

HOLIDAYS: Creates the holiday of the Battle of New Orleans Day

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 1:55(A)(1) and (7), (B)(2), (D), and (E)(1)(a)(i) and to enact R.S.
3 1:58.10, relative to holidays; to provide relative to Presidents' Day; to provide for
4 George Washington's birthday; to provide for the Battle of New Orleans Day; and
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 1:55(A)(1) and (7), (B)(2), (D), and (E)(1)(a)(i) are hereby amended
8 and reenacted and R.S. 1:58.10 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

10 A. The following shall be days of public rest and legal holidays and
11 half-holidays:

12 (1) The following shall be days of public rest and legal holidays: Sundays;
13 January 1, New Year's Day; January 8, Battle of New Orleans; the third Monday in
14 January, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday; the third Monday in February,
15 Washington's Birthday ~~and Presidents' Day~~; the day of Mardi Gras; Good Friday; the
16 last Monday in May, National Memorial Day; July 4, Independence Day; August 30,
17 Huey P. Long Day; the first Monday in September, Labor Day; the second Monday
18 in October, Christopher Columbus Day; November 1, All Saints' Day; November 11,
19 Veterans' Day; the fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day; December 25,
20 Christmas Day; Inauguration Day in the city of Baton Rouge; provided, however,

1 that in the parish of Orleans, the city of Baton Rouge, in each of the parishes
2 comprising the second and sixth congressional districts, except the parish of
3 Ascension, and in each of the parishes comprising the fourteenth and thirty-first
4 judicial districts of the state, the whole of every Saturday shall be a legal holiday,
5 and in the parishes of Catahoula, Caldwell, West Carroll, Concordia, East Carroll,
6 Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, Jackson,
7 Avoyelles, West Feliciana, Rapides, Natchitoches, Grant, LaSalle, Winn, Lincoln,
8 and East Baton Rouge, the whole of every Saturday shall be a holiday for all banking
9 institutions, and in the parishes of Sabine and Vernon each Wednesday and Saturday,
10 from 12:00 o'clock noon until 12:00 o'clock midnight, shall be a half-holiday for all
11 banking institutions. All banks and trust companies, however, may, each at its
12 option, remain open and exercise all of its regular banking functions and duties upon
13 January 8; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday; January 19; Washington's
14 Birthday; ~~Presidents' Day~~; Good Friday; National Memorial Day; June 3; August 30;
15 Christopher Columbus Day; November 1; and Veterans' Day; and all banks and trust
16 companies located in Ward 1 of the parish of Avoyelles may, each at its option,
17 remain open and exercise all of its regular banking functions and duties until 12
18 o'clock noon on Saturdays; however, when on any of said last named days any bank
19 or trust company does actually remain open it shall, as to transactions on such day,
20 to exactly the same extent as if such day were not otherwise a legal holiday, be not
21 subject to any of the provisions of R.S. 7:85 and 251 or any other laws of Louisiana
22 covering the matters of maturity of negotiable instruments and demand, notice,
23 presentment, acceptance, or protest thereof on legal holidays and half-holidays, and
24 all instruments payable to or at such bank upon such day shall become due on such
25 day; and provided, further, that the option of remaining open shall not, except as
26 otherwise provided in this Paragraph, apply to Saturdays or Wednesdays which are
27 holidays or half-holidays, or to Mardi Gras when the same has been declared a legal
28 holiday; and provided still further that nothing in any law of this state shall in any
29 manner whatsoever affect the validity of or render void or voidable the payment,

1 certification, or acceptance of a check or other negotiable instrument or any other
2 transaction by a bank in Louisiana because done on any holiday or half-holiday or
3 because done on any day upon which such bank, if remaining open because of the
4 option given it in this Paragraph, if the payment, certification, acceptance, or other
5 transaction could have been validly done on any other day.

6 * * *

7 (7) The third Monday in February, the birthday of President George
8 Washington ~~and Presidents' Day~~, for public schools; provided however, that a local
9 school board shall decide to observe this holiday during a regularly scheduled school
10 day with or without the necessity of adjourning school for all or any portion of the
11 school day.

12 * * *

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

15 * * *

16 (2) Washington's Birthday, ~~Presidents' Day~~, National Memorial Day, and
17 Huey P. Long Day shall be observed only in such manner as the governor may
18 proclaim, considering the pressure of the state's business.

19 * * *

20 D. Notwithstanding the provisions of ~~R.S. 6:65~~ or any other law to the
21 contrary, all banking institutions and savings and loan associations located within the
22 parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche, Iberia, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, St.
23 Mary, and Iberville, and all banking institutions located within the parishes of
24 Lafayette and St. Landry, shall be closed during any year on Saturdays, Sundays,
25 New Year's Day, Mardi Gras, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and
26 Christmas; provided, however, that when New Year's Day, Independence Day, or
27 Christmas fall on a Sunday, said banking institutions and savings and loan
28 associations shall be closed on the next day, and said financial institutions may, each
29 at its option, remain open and exercise all of its regular functions and duties upon

1 January eighth; January nineteenth; the third Monday in February, Washington's
2 Birthday ~~and Presidents' Day~~; Good Friday; the last Monday in May, National
3 Memorial Day; June third; August thirtieth; the second Monday in October,
4 Christopher Columbus Day; November first; and November eleventh, Veterans' Day;
5 and further provided that when on any of said last named days any said financial
6 institution does actually remain open it shall, as to transactions on such day, to
7 exactly the same extent as if such day were not otherwise a legal holiday, not be
8 subject to ~~any of the provisions of R.S. 7:85 and 251,~~ or any other laws of Louisiana,
9 covering the matters of maturity of negotiable instruments and demands, notice,
10 presentment, acceptance, or protest thereof on legal holidays and half-holidays, and
11 all instruments payable to or at such bank upon such day shall become due on such
12 day; and provided further that the option of remaining open shall not apply to
13 Saturdays or Wednesdays which are holidays or half-holidays, or to Mardi Gras
14 when the same has been declared a legal holiday; and provided further that nothing
15 in any law of this state shall in any manner whatsoever affect the validity of, or
16 render void or voidable, the payment, certification of acceptance of a check or other
17 negotiable instrument, or any other transaction by a bank in Louisiana because done
18 on any holiday or half-holiday or because done on any day upon which such
19 financial institution if remaining open because of the option given it in this
20 Subsection, if the payment, certification, acceptance, or other transaction could have
21 been validly done on any other day, provided, however, that in the parishes of
22 Beauregard, Sabine, Vernon, Evangeline, and DeSoto, the banking institutions may
23 elect to make the whole of Saturdays holidays and close, in lieu of half-holidays on
24 Wednesdays and half-holidays on Saturdays.

25 E.(1)(a)(i) Each clerk of a district court, parish court, and city court shall
26 close his office on the following days: New Year's Day, January first; Washington's
27 Birthday ~~and Presidents' Day~~, the third Monday in February; Good Friday; Memorial
28 Day, the last Monday in May; the Fourth of July; Labor Day, the first Monday in
29 September; All Saints' Day, November first; Veterans' Day, November eleventh;

Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November, and the next day, Friday;
Christmas Eve Day; Christmas Day; and New Year's Eve Day, December thirty-first.

* * *

§58.10. Battle of New Orleans Day

A. A day shall be designated to commemorate the stunning victory by American forces consisting of United States army regulars, marines, and sailors, area militia, and Battalions of Free Men of Color, Baratarians privateers, Attakapas Dragoons, volunteers from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi (Hinds' Dragoons), Choctaws, and individuals who were formerly Spanish subjects and French citizens who fought for their new country under the command of Major General Andrew Jackson against the invading British forces on the plains of Chalmette in the last major military engagement between the United States and Great Britain in the War of 1812.

B. The eighth day of January is hereby designated as the Battle of New Orleans Day throughout the state of Louisiana to honor those who served in this historic battle. The governor or local governing authorities may declare the Battle of New Orleans Day a holiday.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 61 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Bayham

Abstract: Provides for the Battle of New Orleans Day.

Present law provides for days of public rest and legal holidays including George Washington's Birthday and Presidents' Day.

Proposed law retains present law with regard to Washington's Birthday but deletes all references to Presidents' Day.

Proposed law designates Jan. 8th as the Battle of New Orleans Day to honor those who served in this historic battle where American forces represented by volunteers from numerous military backgrounds scored a stunning victory over Great Britain in the War of 1812.

Proposed law permits the governor or local governing authority to declare the Battle of New Orleans a holiday.

(Amends R.S. 1:55(A)(1) and (7), (B)(2), (D), and (E)(1)(a)(i); Adds R.S. 1:58.10)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Delete references to Presidents' Day as a day of public rest and legal holiday.
2. Specify the volunteers and other militia that assisted the U.S. in its victory over Great Britain in the War of 1812.
3. Permit the governor or local governing authority to declare the Battle of New Orleans Day a holiday.