

# Department of Finance and Administration

## Legislative Impact Statement

**Bill: SB519**

**Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY IN THE CLASSROOM; AND TO EFFECT A SEPARATE HOLIDAY FOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**

---

### **Basic Change :**

**Sponsor: Senator Wallace**

Under current law, the third Monday in January is declared a state holiday to commemorate the birthdays of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert E. Lee. This bill will amend Arkansas law to provide that Robert E. Lee's birthday will no longer be a state holiday. Instead, "Robert E. Lee Day" will be a memorial day to be commemorated on the second Saturday in October by the issuance of a Governor's proclamation. Dr. King's birthday will continue to be a state holiday commemorated on the third Monday in January.

The bill amends Arkansas law to also provide that the Commissioner of Education's course materials that teach historical contributions of African-Americans in the United States will emphasize the historic civil rights work of Dr. King. In addition, the bill provides that the Department of Education shall, in advance of the 2018-2019 school year, develop materials relating to Arkansas and the American Civil War with an emphasis upon civilian and military leadership and how the lessons of that era inform contemporary society.

### **Revenue Impact :**

No impact on existing state revenues.

### **Taxpayer Impact :**

The third Monday in January will continue to be a state holiday to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Robert E. Lee Day will be created and commemorated on the second Saturday in October via proclamation of the Governor.

### **Resources Required :**

Development of additional instructional materials as required in the bill.

### **Time Required :**

Adequate time is provided.

### **Procedural Changes :**

None.

### **Other Comments :**

None.

### **Legal Analysis :**

None.