

By: Montgomery (15th), Cummings, Franks,
Holland, Miles, Moss, Rushing, Shows, Ward

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 334

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION
2 3-3-34, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DESIGNATE "MY MISSISSIPPI" AS
3 THE OFFICIAL STATE POEM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as section
6 3-3-34, Mississippi Code of 1972:

7 3-3-34. The poem "My Mississippi," by Nancy Logan Cossey,
8 copyrighted 1999, is hereby designated as the State Poem of
9 Mississippi. The poem reads as follows:

10 **"MY MISSISSIPPI**

11 I live in Mississippi, the great Magnolia state
12 I live in Mississippi, because the state is great
13 It's southern fried chicken, and sweet potato pie
14 I live in Mississippi, Let me tell you why
15 It's full of lots of mystery and sleepy little towns
16 All day singings and dinner on the ground
17 It's azaleas in the springtime and pecans in the fall
18 It's Sunday morning church, good neighbors out on call
19 It's William Faulkner, Oprah Winfrey, Jerry Clower and Marcel
20 It's a history lesson for John Grisham to tell
21 It's Elvis Presley, B.B. King, and Charley Pride

22 Pickin' and a Grinnin' in good ole southern stride
23 It's the Choctaw Indians and Huckleberry Finn
24 Mighty steamboats comin' yonder round the bend
25 It's moonlight and magnolias, blackberries on the vine
26 It's watermelon under a shade tree in the lazy summer time
27 It's poke salad, turnip greens, purple hulls, and potatoes
28 Butterbeans, collards, onions, and fried green tomatoes
29 It's working in the garden, choppin' with a hoe
30 It's worth all the effort to make things grow
31 It's okra, cornbread, fat back, teacakes by the dozens
32 Grandma, Grandpa, aunts, uncles, and cousins
33 It's good ole home cookin' and front porch swings
34 It's coming to the table when the dinner bell rings
35 It's shrimp, crappie, catfish, and bass
36 "Is this paradise?" a fisherman might ask
37 It's hunting deer, dove, turkey and quail
38 It's watching the coondogs catch 'em by the tail
39 It's my Mississippi, the best state in the south
40 It's God's country, "shut my mouth"
41 It's crooked letters and humpbacks and it ends in an i
42 It's my Mississippi can you see why?
43 I love my Mississippi don't you see
44 I love my Mississippi it will always be

45 **My Mississippi"**

46 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 2000.