HOUSE BILL NO. 678

AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION 3-3-32, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DESIGNATE "MISSISSIPPI, THE PROMISED LAND" AS THE OFFICIAL STATE BALLAD; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section 3-3-32, Mississippi Code of 1972:

3-3-32. The ballad "Mississippi, The Promised Land," by Paul Robertson and Paul Ott, copyrighted 1969, is hereby designated as the state ballad of Mississippi. The ballad reads as follows:

"MISSISSIPPI
THE PROMISED LAND
You know I've traveled all over this world
And I've seen a lot of beautiful places and people
But when I'm away
My heart always turns toward the most beautiful place
And the most beautiful people in the world
I call it the Promised Land
You know I'm thinking about Mississippi
Where the cotton blossoms grow
I can see the fields of white
Cast a spell that seems just right
And in my heart I'll always know
There's a cotton blossom moon still shining
On my old Mississippi home
Fragrant whispers in the breeze
From the sweet magnolia trees
Seems to haunt me where ever I roam
In my dreams I hear the church bell ringing
Where my Mother used to kneel and pray
There's a cotton blossom miss in Mississippi
And pretty soon I'll be heading that way
To The Promised Land"

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001.