

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 574

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE YEAR BEGINNING  
2 FEBRUARY 1, 2003, AS THE "YEAR OF THE BLUES" IN MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, the first American art form, the blues, the most  
4 influential form of American roots music, with its impact heard  
5 around the world in rock and roll, jazz, rhythm and blues,  
6 country, and even classical music, was born in the State of  
7 Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, the blues is both a state and national historic  
9 treasure, which needs to be preserved, studied and documented for  
10 future generations; and

11 WHEREAS, the blues is an important documentation of  
12 African-American culture in the 20th Century; and

13 WHEREAS, the various forms of the blues document 20th Century  
14 Mississippi history in the areas of race relations, pop culture,  
15 and the migration of Mississippi from a rural, agricultural  
16 society to an urban, industrialized state; and

17 WHEREAS, the blues is the most celebrated form of American  
18 roots music, with hundreds of festivals held and millions of new  
19 or reissued blues albums sold each year in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, it is important to educate the young people of  
21 Mississippi to understand that the music that they listen to today  
22 has its roots and traditions in the blues; and

23 WHEREAS, there are many living legends of the blues in  
24 Mississippi who need to be recognized and to have their story  
25 captured and preserved for future generations; and

26 WHEREAS, the year 2003 is the Centennial Anniversary of when  
27 W.C. Handy, a classically-trained musician, heard the blues for



28 the first time in a train station in Mississippi, thus enabling  
29 him to compose the first blues music to distribute throughout the  
30 United States, which led to him being named "Father of the Blues";  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, the blues and blues musicians from Mississippi,  
33 whether old or new, male or female, are recognized and revered  
34 worldwide as unique and important ambassadors of the United States  
35 and its music:

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
37 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
38 we do hereby designate the year beginning February 1, 2003, as the  
39 "Year of the Blues," and call on all Mississippians to observe the  
40 "Year of the Blues" with appropriate ceremonies, activities and  
41 educational programs.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to  
43 the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Division of Tourism of the  
44 Mississippi Development Authority, the State Board of Education,  
45 and be made available to members of the Capitol Press Corps.

