

By: Representatives Mims, Howell, Robinson  
(84th), Vince, Patterson

To: Rules; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 845

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION  
2 3-3-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DESIGNATE "I AM MISSISSIPPI"  
3 AS 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 3-3-51, Mississippi Code of 1972:

7 3-3-51. The poem "I Am Mississippi," by Paul Ott,  
8 copyrighted 1990, is hereby designated as the state Poem of  
9 Mississippi. The poem reads as follows:

10 "I Am Mississippi  
11 I'm the land of the Choctaw  
12 The hills of Vicksburg, and a cross-cut saw  
13 Dinner on the ground and muscadine vine  
14 I'm a longleaf pine, and Mississippi on my mind  
15 I'm a banjo pickin' and all night sings  
16 Azaleas a'bloomin' in Ocean Springs  
17 I'm a Gospel Singer and the old folks at home  
18 And I'm the eagle on the top of the capitol's dome  
19 I'm coffee in the morning and an ole smoked ham  
20 Cathead biscuits and blackberry jam  
21 I'm a Mississippi moon, a dusty Delta Dawn,  
22 B.B. King,  
23 Magnolias in bloom  
24 I'm an antebellum home on the Natchez Trace,  
25 A rusty plow on the old home place  
26 I'm Walter Payton catchin' a pass, Elvis Presley,  
27 Coon hounds and bird dogs and tea of

28   Sassafras  
29                         I'm Miss Mississippi and all her glory  
30                 I'm William Faulkner as he writes a story  
31                         I'm Jimmie Rogers, the Singing Brakeman  
32                         John C. Stennis, a southern statesman  
33                 I'm the Mississippi River as it rounds the bend  
34                         I'm Gone with the Wind, ya'll come back again  
35                 Well, I'm everything good you have ever dreamed about  
36                         Hush yo mouth, I'm Mississippi - I Am the South."  
37                 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
38                 and after July 1, 2006.