

By: Senator(s) Flowers

To: Constitution

SENATE BILL NO. 2272

1 AN ACT TO AFFIRM THAT STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL UNITY MADE IN
2 THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, SHALL BE
3 RECITED OR SUNG IN ENGLISH; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, Francis Scott Key wrote the words of the
5 Star-Spangled Banner in English in 1814, inspired by the sight of
6 the American Flag still waving at Fort McHenry after 25 hours of
7 continual bombardment by British Forces; and

8 WHEREAS, Congress declared the Star-Spangled Banner the
9 National Anthem of the United States in 1931 (Section 301 of Title
10 3, United States Code); and

11 WHEREAS, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United
12 States, written in English, was first specified in law by Congress
13 in 1942 (Section 4 of Title 4, United States Code); and

14 WHEREAS, the Oath of Allegiance, to which lawful permanent
15 residents swear upon becoming citizens of the United States (as
16 required under Section 337 of the Immigration and Naturalization
17 Act (8 USC 1448), and the Oath of Office for public officers and
18 legislators in the State of Mississippi prescribed in Sections 40
19 and 268, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, are based, in part, on
20 language originally written in English by General George
21 Washington and sworn by him and his general officers at Valley
22 Forge in 1778; and

23 WHEREAS, the vast majority of Americans are immigrants or the
24 descendants of immigrants, proud of their ancestral country, but
25 prouder still to be American; and

26 WHEREAS, millions of Americans speak or study additional
27 languages, but English is their common language; and

28 WHEREAS, the original national motto of the United States, `E
29 Pluribus Unum', meaning `from many, one', signifies the coming
30 together of people from many foreign countries to form one Nation,
31 was incorporated into the Great Seal of the United States in 1776,
32 is printed on currency of the United States, and inscribed on the
33 wall of the Senate chamber; and

34 WHEREAS, the people of the United States are united not by
35 race, ancestry or origin, but by a common language, English, and
36 by common belief in the principles prescribed in the founding
37 documents of the Nation, especially the Declaration of
38 Independence and the Constitution; and

39 WHEREAS, to become citizens of the United States, under
40 Sections 312 and 337 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 USC
41 1423 and 1448), lawful permanent residents of the United States
42 who have immigrated from foreign countries must, among other
43 requirements, renounce allegiance to the government of their
44 country of origin, swear allegiance to the laws and Constitution
45 of the United States, and demonstrate an understanding of the
46 English language; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

48 **SECTION 1.** The State of Mississippi affirms that statements
49 or songs that symbolize the unity of the Nation, including the
50 National Anthem, the Oath of Allegiance sworn by new United States
51 citizens, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United
52 States, when made or performed in the State of Mississippi, shall
53 be recited or sung in English, the common language of the United
54 States.

55 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after its passage.