

By: Representative Holland

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 316

1 AN ACT TO CODIFY SECTION 3-3-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DESIGNATE "MISSISSIPPI SONG" AS THE OFFICIAL STATE SONG; TO REPEAL
3 CHAPTER 654, LAWS OF 1962, WHICH DESIGNATED "GO MISSISSIPPI" AS
4 THE OFFICIAL STATE SONG; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, the promotion of the best interests of the State of
6 Mississippi requires that the state have an officially recognized
7 state song that will instill pride in all Mississippians and that
8 will give rise to signal connotations in the minds of all who sing
9 or hear the official song; and

10 WHEREAS, the present official state song has served its
11 purpose but is not now representative of the quickening pace of
12 the development of the State of Mississippi; and

13 WHEREAS, the Legislature desires to recognize, as the
14 official song of the State of Mississippi, the lyrics and
15 music of "Mississippi Song," which are:

16 **Verse 1**

17 She was once a great lady standing tall with her
18 head held high. Then a war came along, broke her
19 heart and left her there to die. With her gown in
20 tattered shreds, she raised her weary head, and
21 vowed she'd rise again. Looking back to yesterday,
22 she's come a long, long way since then.

23 **Chorus**

24 Mississippi, this is your song. Sung for all the
25 righteous people who won't let you forget when you
26 were wrong. In the past they've written songs for
27 everything that's red, white and blue. It's been a



28 long time coming, so Mississippi, this one's for
29 you.

30 **Verse 2**

31 I was born into her family and raised on the labors
32 of her fields; beneath the summer sun's warm haze.
33 She let me run across her meadows and her hills,
34 but she's still the last in line when they pass out
35 poems and rhymes about the land of the free.
36 Lord, she's still misunderstood, but she's been
37 mighty good to me.

38 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

40 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
41 3-3-57, Mississippi Code of 1972:

42 3-3-57. The lyrics and music to the song "Mississippi Song,"
43 written by Jim Weatherly in 1971, is hereby designated as the
44 official song of the State of Mississippi.

45 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 654, Laws of 1962, which designated "Go
46 Mississippi" as the official song of the State of Mississippi, is
47 repealed.

48 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
49 and after July 1, 2011.

