

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th)

To: Rules

## SENATE BILL NO. 2177

1 AN ACT AUTHORIZING MISSISSIPPI TO HAVE TWO OFFICIAL STATE  
2 SONGS CONSISTING OF THE PRESENT OFFICIAL STATE SONG "GO  
3 MISSISSIPPI" AND "MY HOME MISSISSIPPI"; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, the GREAT STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, her government  
5 officials, and all her people will be celebrating her BICENTENNIAL  
6 in the year 2017; and

7 WHEREAS, the Legislature further desires that all  
8 Mississippians have the opportunity to join together in a second  
9 official state song; a song that vividly describes Mississippi and  
10 her people; a song that will instill pride and joy in the hearts  
11 of every Mississippian; a song that expresses joy and love that  
12 Mississippians have for their state, for one another, and for  
13 everyone visiting Mississippi; a song that will draw all  
14 Mississippians together with love and respect for one another and  
15 for their state; and a special song that is easy to sing with  
16 lyrics and melody suitable for all occasions, public and private,  
17 formal and informal; and



18           WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that many states of the  
19 United States have two or more official state songs, namely,  
20 Tennessee has six official state songs, West Virginia has three  
21 official state songs, and Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and Montana  
22 have two official state songs each; and

23           WHEREAS, Mississippi presently has an official state song,  
24 "Go, Mississippi" by Houston Davis, which was adopted by the  
25 Legislature in House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 (1962 Regular  
26 Session), which is sometimes used for special occasions and  
27 specific events; however, it is not a song with lyrics and melody  
28 that lend themselves for Mississippians to sing at informal  
29 gatherings and by Mississippians individually as they go about  
30 their daily lives; and

31           WHEREAS, the Legislature further desires to provide  
32 Mississippians with two official state songs whereby  
33 Mississippians will have official state songs appropriate for all  
34 occasions, events and daily activities; and

35           WHEREAS, the Legislature further desires to recognize the  
36 words and music of "My Home Mississippi" as a second official song  
37 of the State of Mississippi; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

39           **SECTION 1.** (1) The lyrics and music in the song entitled  
40 "My Home Mississippi" by Delma Furniss, set to the modified music  
41 of a 19th Century American folk song, are hereby designated as an  
42 official state song of the State of Mississippi to join the



43 present official state song "Go, Mississippi" by Houston Davis.  
44 The lyrics of "My Home Mississippi" consist of five (5) verses and  
45 chorus, as follows:

46 **MY HOME MISSISSIPPI**

47 **VERSE 1:**

48 O my heart is filled with joy ev-'ry morning as I rise,  
49 Just to have another day beneath your warm and friendly skies,  
50 And to share with friend and neighbor all your bountiful supplies;  
51 You are so good to me!

52 **VERSE 2:**

53 From your northern hills a'rolling to your dazzling great gulf  
54 sand;  
55 From your eastern pines so stately to your fertile Delta land;  
56 With your fields and streams connecting - it is all so very grand!  
57 O what a sight to see!

58 **VERSE 3:**

59 All your people, nice and pleasant, like a melody in tune,  
60 With a charm and loving beauty, like a new-sprung rose in June,  
61 And a welcome, big and glowing, like the golden harvest moon;  
62 O hospitality!

63 **VERSE 4:**

64 Your mind - more fresh and ever clean than the driven winter snow;  
65 Your heart - more pure and O more fine than the richest gold, I  
66 know;



67 Your soul - more filled with holiness than an angel's saintly  
68 glow;  
69 O what a trinity!

70 **VERSE 5:**

71 When my final bell comes ringing - be it morning, noon or night;  
72 When He raps upon my portal, and my spirit takes its flight;  
73 As they lay me in your bosom, ev-'ry thing will be all right;  
74 You've been so good to me!

75 **CHORUS**

76 Warm and friendly, Mississippi,  
77 One and only, Mississippi,  
78 I do love you, Mississippi,  
79 My home you'll always be!

80 (2) The Division of Tourism of the Mississippi Development  
81 Authority and all other agencies of the state interested in  
82 promoting the welfare of the State of Mississippi are hereby  
83 encouraged to make use of the state song "My Home Mississippi" in  
84 promoting and advancing the State of Mississippi and its citizens,  
85 and are hereby granted copyright permission by its author to use  
86 this song in pursuing and accomplishing these endeavors.

87 **SECTION 2.** This act shall be codified as Section 3-3-57,  
88 Mississippi Code of 1972.

89 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
90 and after July 1, 2015.

