

By: Senator(s) Dawkins

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2501

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DESIGNATE THE AMERICAN BLACK BEAR AS ONE OF THE STATE LAND
3 MAMMALS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, black bears play an integral role in Mississippi's
5 rich cultural past, from the famous 1902 President Roosevelt hunt,
6 from which the idea of the teddy bear toy was created, to the
7 legacy of some of the greatest bear hunters of all time. Bears
8 once roamed throughout the state and three subspecies are
9 recognized: the American Black Bear, the Florida Black Bear and
10 the federally threatened Louisiana Black Bear. Today,
11 Mississippi's black bear population is estimated to be only about
12 100 throughout the state, and the natural corridor of the black
13 bear in Mississippi must be preserved; and

14 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Black Bear is the unofficial mascot
15 of the University of Mississippi; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

17 **SECTION 1.** Section 3-3-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
18 amended as follows:



19 3-3-17. The white-tailed deer (Odocoileus
20 virginianus) * * *, the red fox (Vulpes vulpes) and the American
21 black bear (Ursus Americanus) are designated the State Land
22 Mammals of Mississippi.

23 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
24 and after July 1, 2015.

