

By: Representatives Shirley, Young

To: Tourism

HOUSE BILL NO. 63

1 AN ACT TO CODIFY NEW SECTION 3-3-61, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO DESIGNATE THE POEM "I AM MISSISSIPPI" AS THE OFFICIAL
3 STATE POEM OF MISSISSIPPI; 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 3-3-61, Mississippi Code of 1972:

7 3-3-61. The poem entitled "I Am Mississippi" by Paul Ott,
8 copyrighted 1990, is designated as the official 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 a muscadine vine

14 I'm a longleaf pine, and Mississippi's 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 Rodgers, 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, 2016.

