

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Tourism

HOUSE BILL NO. 813

1 AN ACT TO CODIFY NEW SECTION 3-3-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO DESIGNATE THE SONG, "QUEEN OF THE SOUTH," AS AN OFFICIAL
3 STATE SONG IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT STATE SONG OF MISSISSIPPI,
4 "GO, MISSISSIPPI"; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that many states of the
6 United States have two (2) or more official state songs,
7 including: Tennessee, which has six (6) official state songs;
8 West Virginia, which has three (3) official state songs; and
9 Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina which have two (2)
10 official state songs each; and

11 WHEREAS, Mississippi presently has an official state song,
12 "Go, Mississippi" by Houston Davis, which was adopted by the
13 Legislature in House Concurrent Resolution No. 67, 1962 Regular
14 Session; and

15 WHEREAS, while "Go, Mississippi" is used sometimes for
16 special occasions and specific events, the lyrics and melody of
17 the song do not lend themselves easily for Mississippians to sing
18 at informal gatherings and by Mississippians individually as they
19 go about their daily lives; and



20 WHEREAS, the Legislature desires to provide Mississippians with
21 two (2) official state songs so that Mississippians will have
22 official state songs appropriate for all occasions, events and daily
23 activities; and

24 WHEREAS, the Legislature further desires to recognize the
25 words and music of "Queen of the South" as a second official song
26 of the State of Mississippi: NOW, THEREFORE,

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

28 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
29 3-3-59, Mississippi Code of 1972:

30 3-3-59. (1) The lyrics and music in the song entitled
31 "Queen of the South" by Rick Cox, are designated as an official
32 state song of the State of Mississippi in addition to the present
33 official state song, "Go, Mississippi" by Houston Davis, adopted
34 by the Legislature in House Concurrent Resolution No. 67, 1962
35 Regular Session.

36 (2) The lyrics of "Queen of the South" consist of three (3)
37 verses and two (2) choruses, as follows:

38 **Queen of the South**

39 **VERSE 1:**

40 It's the first night of summer deep in the heart of Mississippi,
41 And the fireflies are burning holes in the dark, ain't they
42 pretty,
43 A mockingbird's whistling another bird's tune,
44 While the smell of magnolias hangs heavy in June;



45 And the sun, like a crown, has set on the Queen of the South.

46 **VERSE 2:**

47 Families have gathered to laugh, talk and sing on this humid
48 night,

49 Grandma and Grandpa on the front porch swing it's a Southern
50 delight,

51 Pine trees swaying to the sound of the wind,

52 While the City of New Orleans rolls by once again;

53 And the moon, like a spotlight, shines on the Queen of the South.

54 **CHORUS:**

55 Oh, Mississippi, what a lady you are,

56 A woman of grace and beauty and charm,

57 And those who have known you they have no doubt;

58 Among all the others you're the Queen of the South.

59 **VERSE 3:**

60 A slow Southern breeze brings some relief to a sweaty brow,

61 And out of the fields comes the sweet melody of a lowing cow,

62 Bullfrogs are croakin', "You've caught him this time!",

63 As an old man pulls up another trot line;

64 And the stars, like diamonds, reflect on the Queen of the South.

65 **CHORUS:**

66 Oh, Mississippi, what a lady you are,

67 A woman of grace and beauty and charm,

68 And those who have known you they have no doubt;

69 Among all the others you're the Queen of the South.



70 (3) The Division of Tourism of the Mississippi Development
71 Authority and all other agencies of the state interested in
72 promoting the welfare of the State of Mississippi are encouraged to
73 make use of the state song, "Queen of the South," in promoting and
74 advancing the State of Mississippi and its citizens. The State of
75 Mississippi and state agencies are granted copyright permission by
76 the song's author to use this song in pursuing and accomplishing
77 these endeavors.

78 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
79 and after July 1, 2016.

