

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2249

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION
2 3-3-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DESIGNATE "I AM MISSISSIPPI"
3 AS THE OFFICIAL STATE POEM; 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 3-3-51, Mississippi Code of 1972:

7 3-3-51. The poem "I Am Mississippi," by Paul Ott,
8 copyrighted 1990, is hereby designated as the 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 muscadine vine
14 I'm a longleaf pine, and Mississippi 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 Jimmy Rogers, 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.

