

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th)

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2282

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
54 dazzling great gulf 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
66 than the richest gold, I know;
67 Your soul - more filled with holiness



68 than an angel's saintly 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, 2016.

