

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Tourism

HOUSE BILL NO. 923

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 3-3-63, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO DESIGNATE THE SONG "QUEEN OF THE SOUTH" AS AN OFFICIAL
3 STATE SONG IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT OFFICIAL STATE SONG "GO,
4 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 each have
10 two (2) official state songs; and

11 WHEREAS, Mississippi presently has an official state song,
12 "Go, Mississippi", written by Houston Davis, which was adopted by
13 the Legislature in House Concurrent Resolution No. 67, 1962
14 Regular 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
21 with two (2) official state songs so that Mississippians will have
22 official state songs appropriate for all occasions, events and
23 daily activities; and

24 WHEREAS, the Legislature further desires to recognize as a
25 second official song of the State of Mississippi, the words and
26 music of "Queen of the South", written by Rich Cox, which are:

27 **Verse I**

28 It's the first night of summer deep in the heart of
29 Mississippi,
30 And the fireflies are burning holes in the dark, ain't they
31 pretty,
32 A mockingbird's whistling another bird's tune,
33 While the smell of magnolias hangs heavy in June;
34 And the sun, like a crown, has set on the Queen of the South.

35 **Verse II**

36 Families have gathered to laugh, talk and sing on this humid
37 night,
38 Grandma and Grandpa on the front porch swing it's a Southern
39 delight,
40 Pine trees swaying to the sound of the wind,
41 While the City of New Orleans rolls by once again;
42 And the moon, like a spotlight, shines on the Queen of the
43 South.

44 **Chorus**



Oh, Mississippi, what a lady you are,
A woman of grace and beauty and charm,
And those who have known you they have no doubt;
Among all the others you're the Queen of the South.

Verse III

A slow Southern breeze brings some relief to a sweaty brow,
And out of the fields comes the sweet melody of a lowing cow,
Bullfrogs are croakin', "You've caught him this time!",
As an old man pulls up another trot line;
And the stars, like diamonds, reflect on the Queen of the
South.

Chorus

Oh, Mississippi, what a lady you are,
A woman of grace and beauty and charm,
And those who have known you they have no doubt;
Among all the others you're the Queen of the South.

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section
3-3-63, Mississippi Code of 1972:

3-3-63. The lyrics and music to the song "Queen of the
South", written by Rich Cox, are hereby designated as the second
official song of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 2. The Division of Tourism of the Mississippi
Development Authority and all other agencies of the state



70 interested in promoting the welfare of the State of Mississippi
71 are encouraged to make use of the state song "Queen of the South"
72 in promoting and advancing the State of Mississippi and its
73 citizens. The State of Mississippi and state agencies are granted
74 copyright permission by the song's author to use this song in
75 pursuing and accomplishing these endeavors.

76 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
77 and after July 1, 2019.

