

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2646

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE "MISS THE MISSISSIPPI AND YOU" BY JIMMIE
2 RODGERS AS THE OFFICIAL TRADITIONAL COUNTRY SONG OF MISSISSIPPI
3 AND TO DESIGNATE "CROSS ROAD BLUES" BY ROBERT JOHNSON AS THE
4 OFFICIAL TRADITIONAL BLUES SONG OF MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

6 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has no official state song
7 because "Go, Mississippi" was declared the official state song
8 under House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 (1962 Regular Session)
9 and was never enacted as a statute and codified as other official
10 state emblems and designations; and

11 WHEREAS, the official state song of Mississippi should
12 reference the rich music traditions of the state which are
13 performed and celebrated by music lovers across the state, country
14 and internationally; and

15 WHEREAS, the extensive history and diversity of the State of
16 Mississippi require the designation of two official state songs
17 that can be sung with pride and affection; and

18 WHEREAS, Jimmie Rodgers of Meridian, Mississippi, "The Father
19 of Country Music," has had a profound impact on the lives of



20 Mississippians with his simple but unique way with music. "Miss
21 the Mississippi and You" by Jimmie Rodgers in 1932 meets the
22 melodic and lyrical requirements for a state song, the words of
23 which are as follows:

24 **MISS THE MISSISSIPPI AND YOU**

25 I'm growing tired of the big city lights
26 Tired of the glamour, tired of the size
27 I'm always dreaming of roaming once more
28 Back to my home on the old river shore

29
30 Days are dark and dreary everywhere I roam
31 How I long for Mississippi and you
32 Nothing seems to cheer me under heaven's door
33 How I miss the Mississippi and you

34
35 Roaming the wide world over
36 Always alone and blue, so blue
37 I am sad and weary, longing to go home
38 Yes, I miss the Mississippi and you

39
40 Mockingbirds are singing 'round the cabin door
41 While I dream of Mississippi and you
42 And my memories are bringing happy days of yore
43 I have spent in Mississippi with you

44



70
71 I'm going down to Rosedale, take my rider by the side.
72 I'm going down to Rosedale, take my rider by the side.
73 You can still barrel house, baby, on the riverside.
74
75 You can run, you can run, tell my friend-boy Willie Brown.
76 You can run, you can run, tell my friend-boy Willie Brown.
77 And I'm standing at the crossroads, believe I'm sinking down;
78 NOW, THEREFORE,
79 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
80 **SECTION 1.** The following are hereby designated the official
81 state songs of the State of Mississippi:
82 (a) Traditional Country Song, "Miss the Mississippi and
83 You" by Jimmie Rodgers;
84 (b) Traditional Blues Song, "Cross Road Blues" by
85 Robert Johnson; and
86 (c) Song Emeritus, "Go, Mississippi" adopted under
87 House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 (1962 Regular Session).
88 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
89 and after July 1, 2019.

