To: Rules

By: Senator(s) Tollison

## 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 OFFICIAL TRADITIONAL BLUES SONG OF MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED 5 PURPOSES. 6 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has no official state song because "Go, Mississippi" was declared the official state song under House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 (1962 Regular Session) 8 9 and was never enacted as a statute and codified as other official 10 state emblems and designations; and WHEREAS, the official state song of Mississippi should 11 reference the rich music traditions of the state which are 12 performed and celebrated by music lovers across the state, country 13 and internationally; and 14 15 WHEREAS, the extensive history and diversity of the State of

Mississippi require the designation of two official state songs

of Country Music," has had a profound impact on the lives of

WHEREAS, Jimmie Rodgers of Meridian, Mississippi, "The Father

that can be sung with pride and affection; and

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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
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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
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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
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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
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45	Roaming the wide world over
46	Always alone and blue, so blue
47	Longing for my homeland on that muddy water shore
48	Yes, I miss the Mississippi and you
49	The Mississippi and you
50	WHEREAS, "Cross Road Blues" (more commonly known as
51	"Crossroads") is a blues song written and recorded by Mississippi
52	Blues Artist Robert Johnson in 1936. Johnson performed it as a
53	solo piece with his vocal and acoustic slide guitar in the Delta
54	blues-style. The song has become part of the Robert Johnson
55	mythology as referring to the place where he supposedly sold his
56	soul to the devil in exchange for his musical talents, although
57	the lyrics do not contain any specific references. Renowned
58	English Guitarist Eric Clapton with Cream popularized the song as
59	"Crossroads" in the late 1960s. "Cross Road Blues" meets the
60	melodic and lyrical requirements for a state song, the words of
61	which are as follows:
62	CROSSROADS
63	I went down to the crossroads, fell down on my knees.
64	I went down to the crossroads, fell down on my knees.
65	Asked the Lord above for mercy, "Save me if you please."
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67	I went down to the crossroads, tried to flag a ride.
68	I went down to the crossroads, tried to flag a ride.
69	Nobody seemed to know me, everybody passed me by.

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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.
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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	<b>SECTION 1.</b> 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

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and after July 1, 2019.