

By: Representative Paden

To: Tourism

HOUSE BILL NO. 143

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 3-3-63, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO DESIGNATE THE SONG "MY HOME MISSISSIPPI" 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, each of which has
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 that all Mississippians have
21 the opportunity to join together in a second official state song;
22 a special song that vividly describes Mississippi and her people;
23 that will instill pride and joy in the hearts of every
24 Mississippian; that expresses the joy and love that Mississippians
25 have for their state, for one another and for everyone who visits
26 Mississippi; that will draw all Mississippians together with love
27 and respect for one another and for their state; and that is easy
28 to sing with lyrics and melody that are suitable for all
29 occasions, public and private, formal and informal; and

30 WHEREAS, the Legislature further desires to provide
31 Mississippians with two (2) official state songs so that
32 Mississippians will have official state songs appropriate for all
33 occasions, events and daily activities; and

34 WHEREAS, the Legislature further desires to recognize as a
35 second official song of the State of Mississippi, the words and
36 music of "My Home Mississippi," written by Delma Furniss, which
37 are:

38 **Verse I**

39 O my heart is filled with joy ev-'ry morning as I rise,
40 Just to have another day beneath your warm and friendly
41 skies,
42 And to share with friend and neighbor all your bountiful
43 supplies;
44 You are so good to me!



45 **Verse II**

46 From your northern hill a'rolling to your dazzling great gulf
47 sand;

48 From your eastern pines so stately to your fertile Delta
49 land;

50 With your fields and streams connecting - it is all so very
51 grand!

52 O what a sight to see!

53 **Verse III**

54 All your people, nice and pleasant, like a melody in tune,
55 With your charm and loving beauty, like a new-sprung rose in
56 June,

57 And a welcome, big and glowing, like the golden harvest moon;
58 O hospitality!

59 **Verse IV**

60 Your mind - more fresh and ever clean than the driven winter
61 snow;

62 Your heart - more pure and O more fine than the richest gold,
63 I know;

64 Your soul - more filled with holiness than an angel's saintly
65 glow;

66 O what a trinity!

67 **Verse V**

68 When my final bell comes ringing - be it morning, noon or
69 night;



70 When He raps upon my portal, and my spirit takes its flight;
71 As they lay me in your bosom, ev-'ry thing will be all right;
72 You've been so good to me!

73 **Chorus**

74 Warm and friendly, Mississippi,
75 One and only, Mississippi,
76 I do love you, Mississippi,
77 My home you'll always be!

78 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

80 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
81 3-3-63, Mississippi Code of 1972:

82 3-3-63. The lyrics and music to the song "My Home
83 Mississippi," written by Delma Furniss, are designated as the
84 second official song of the State of Mississippi.

85 **SECTION 2.** The Division of Tourism of the Mississippi
86 Development Authority and all other agencies of the state
87 interested in promoting the welfare of the State of Mississippi
88 are encouraged to make use of the state song "My Home Mississippi"
89 in promoting and advancing the State of Mississippi and its
90 citizens. The State of Mississippi and state agencies are granted
91 copyright permission by the song's author to use this song in
92 pursuing and accomplishing these endeavors.

93 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
94 and after July 1, 2022.

