

By: Representative Crudup

To: Tourism

HOUSE BILL NO. 444

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SONG STUDY
2 COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A NEW OFFICIAL SONG FOR THE STATE OF
3 MISSISSIPPI; TO PRESCRIBE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AND TO
4 PROVIDE FOR ITS ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS; TO REQUIRE THE
5 COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE NO
6 LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30, 2022; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is known as the "Birthplace
8 of America's Music," and is credited for producing Elvis Presley,
9 the "King of Rock and Roll," Jimmie Rodgers, the "Father of
10 Country Music," and B.B. King, the "King of the Blues," and these
11 Mississippi trailblazers, alongside hundreds of others, have
12 impacted and influenced the music industry like no others in
13 modern history; and

14 WHEREAS, Mississippi's musical heritage has positioned the
15 Magnolia State as a true renaissance of musical genres, scaling
16 past, present and even future trends, and from rock and roll,
17 country and the blues, to gospel, opera and everything in between,
18 Mississippi has not only transformed the course of America's
19 music, it has revolutionized it, and because of this, it is
20 important that the official song of the State of Mississippi truly



21 reflects the state's phenomenal musical heritage, while
22 enthusiastically looking forward to its future; NOW, THEREFORE,
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

24 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Mississippi State
25 Song Study Committee for the purpose of developing and reporting
26 to the Legislature its recommendation for the new official song of
27 the State of Mississippi. The committee is charged with a
28 sensitive and responsible task that it shall conduct in an
29 objective manner. The new official song of the State of
30 Mississippi shall honor the past while embracing the promise of
31 the future.

32 (2) The committee shall consist of nine (9) members, to be
33 appointed as follows:

34 (a) Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the
35 House of Representatives, with two (2) of those members being
36 members of the House of Representatives;

37 (b) Three (3) members appointed by the Lieutenant
38 Governor, with two (2) of those members being members of the
39 Mississippi State Senate; and

40 (c) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor.

41 All appointments to the committee shall be made not later
42 than July 15, 2022. The chair of the committee shall be chosen by
43 majority vote of the members of the committee. The committee
44 shall meet as soon as practicable after the appointments have been
45 made upon the joint call of the Speaker and the Lieutenant



46 Governor, and shall organize for business. A majority vote of the
47 members of the committee shall be required for the adoption of any
48 reports and recommendations.

49 (3) The committee shall have the following functions and
50 duties:

51 (a) To hold regular public meetings when and where it
52 sees fit;

53 (b) To receive written public comments in a manner and
54 under the terms and conditions as it sees fit;

55 (c) To collect, examine and consider all information
56 that it determines may be helpful in making a recommendation for
57 the new official song for the State of Mississippi;

58 (d) To consult with experts, representatives of
59 organizations and associations, and others, as it sees fit, whose
60 knowledge or expertise may assist the committee in making its
61 recommendation;

62 (e) To make any inquiries and conduct any business that
63 may assist the committee in developing the new official song for
64 the State of Mississippi;

65 (f) Keep minutes of its meetings, and make those
66 minutes available to the public; and

67 (g) To make a written recommendation for the new
68 official song for the State of Mississippi, which shall be
69 presented to the Legislature not later than November 30, 2022.



70 (4) Members of the committee shall receive no compensation
71 for their service on the committee, but may receive reimbursement
72 for mileage and actual expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, to
73 the extent that funds are available for that purpose.

74 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
75 and after its passage.

