

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1487

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after line 8 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

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

18 WHEREAS, the extensive history and diversity of the State of
19 Mississippi require the designation of three official state songs
20 that can be sung with pride and affection; and

21 WHEREAS, Jimmie Rodgers of Meridian, Mississippi, "The Father
22 of Country Music," has had a profound impact on all of our lives
23 and touched our souls with his simple but unique way with music.
24 "Miss the Mississippi and You" by Jimmie Rodgers in 1932 meets the

25 melodic and lyrical requirements for a state song, the words of
26 which are as follows:

27 **MISS THE MISSISSIPPI AND YOU**

28 I'm growing tired of the big city lights
29 Tired of the glamour, tired of the size
30 I'm always dreaming of roaming once more
31 Back to my home on the old river shore
32 Days are dark and dreary everywhere I roam
33 How I long for Mississippi and you
34 Nothing seems to cheer me under heaven's door
35 How I miss the Mississippi and you
36 Roaming the wide world over
37 Always alone and blue, so blue
38 I am sad and weary, longing to go home
39 Yes, I miss the Mississippi and you
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 Roaming the wide world over
45 Always alone and blue, so blue
46 Longing for my homeland on that muddy water shore
47 Yes, I miss the Mississippi and you
48 The Mississippi and you

49 WHEREAS, "Cross Road Blues" (more commonly known as
50 "Crossroads") is a blues song written and recorded by Mississippi

51 Blues Artist Robert Johnson in 1936. Johnson performed it as a
52 solo piece with his vocal and acoustic slide guitar in the Delta
53 blues-style. The song has become part of the Robert Johnson
54 mythology as referring to the place where he supposedly sold his
55 soul to the Devil in exchange for his musical talents, although
56 the lyrics do not contain any specific references to such events.
57 Renowned English Guitarist Eric Clapton with Cream popularized the
58 song as "Crossroads" in the late 1960s. "Cross Road Blues" meets
59 the melodic and lyrical requirements for a state song, the words
60 of which are as follows:

61 **CROSSROADS**

62 I went down to the crossroads, fell down on my knees.

63 I went down to the crossroads, fell down on my knees.

64 Asked the Lord above for mercy, "Save me if you please."

65 I went down to the crossroads, tried to flag a ride.

66 I went down to the crossroads, tried to flag a ride.

67 Nobody seemed to know me, everybody passed me by.

68 I'm going down to Rosedale, take my rider by the side.

69 I'm going down to Rosedale, take my rider by the side.

70 You can still barrel house, baby, on the riverside.

71 You can run, you can run, tell my friend-boy Willie Brown.

72 You can run, you can run, tell my friend-boy Willie Brown.

73 And I'm standing at the crossroads, believe I'm sinking down; and

74 WHEREAS, in 2021, a popular Mississippi singer and songwriter
75 released a new anthem for the state titled "One Mississippi." In
76 2017, Steve Azar, who was born and reared in Greenville,

77 Mississippi, was asked by Governor Phil Bryant to write the
78 official Mississippi bicentennial song. "One Mississippi" was
79 recorded at a new recording studio at the Mississippi Arts &
80 Entertainment Experience Museum in Meridian. Azar's lyrics
81 encompass all corners of the Magnolia State, the words of which
82 are as follows:

83 **ONE MISSISSIPPI**

84 Fertile fields of flat lands and hills raise
85 'bout anything, whatever a farmer can dream.
86 Slug burgers, shrimp boil, catfish fried up in oil.
87 Oh good gosh oh mighty, just to husk a hot tamale, now.
88 Now that's Mississippi.
89 America's music birthplace where rock and roll
90 was made out of our gospel and blues
91 and that pure country tune.
92 Oh authors and poets, so profoundly historic.
93 An imagination of a child let their
94 words run wild. Come on now.
95 Now that's Mississippi.
96 I say, one Mississippi there's a magnolia tree.
97 Two Mississippi where a mockingbird sings, out on its limb,
98 whistling that sweet soulful hymn.
99 I say, three Mississippi to this land called home.
100 I'll breathe Mississippi 'til I'm dead and gone.
101 Just carry on. I'll carry on. Mississippi. Yeah.
102 We survived hurricanes, know them by name,

103 rose above a flood, built a wall of its own mud.
104 And come Sunday morning, we profess our faith,
105 we're near the cross and His amazing grace.
106 Oh yeah, now that's Mississippi.
107 I say, one Mississippi there's a magnolia tree.
108 Two Mississippi where a mockingbird sings, out on its limb,
109 whistling that sweet soulful hymn.
110 I say, three Mississippi to this land called home.
111 I'll breathe Mississippi 'til I'm dead and gone.
112 Just carry on. I'll carry on. Mississippi.
113 Round here's where the Muppets grew up.
114 And potters and artists inspired all of us.
115 It's kudzu walls and fall football.
116 A Gulf Coast sunset and a Delta dawn.
117 It's simple nights, a smile on a face,
118 taking that peaceful drive down the Natchez Trace.
119 And our old man river, lavish lakes and streams.
120 Pines full of the wildest life and possibilities.
121 That's Mississippi.
122 Now Jackson is some kind of centerpiece on a
123 most celebrated table of hospitality.
124 And ain't it funny how the world has come to
125 count it seems, they're doing it everywhere,
126 it's just not one, two, three. No.
127 We're one Mississippi where there's a magnolia tree.
128 Two Mississippi while a mockingbird sings,

129 out on its limb, oh what a sweet soulful hymn.
130 I say, three Mississippi to this land called home.
131 I'll bleed Mississippi til I'm dead and gone.
132 Won't you carry on. Oh carry on. Mississippi. Mississippi.

133 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

135 **SECTION 1.** The following are hereby designated the official
136 state songs of the State of Mississippi:

137 (a) Traditional Country Song, "Miss the Mississippi and
138 You" by Jimmie Rodgers;

139 (b) Traditional Blues Song, "Cross Road Blues" by
140 Robert Johnson; and

141 (c) Contemporary Music Song, "One Mississippi" by Steve
142 Azar.

143 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 654, Laws of 1962, which designated "Go
144 Mississippi" as the official song of the State of Mississippi, is
145 repealed.

146 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
147 and after July 1, 2022, and shall stand repealed from and after
148 June 30, 2022.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE "MISS THE MISSISSIPPI AND YOU" BY JIMMIE
2 RODGERS AS THE OFFICIAL TRADITIONAL COUNTRY SONG OF MISSISSIPPI,
3 TO DESIGNATE "CROSS ROAD BLUES" BY ROBERT JOHNSON AS THE OFFICIAL
4 TRADITIONAL BLUES SONG OF MISSISSIPPI AND TO DESIGNATE "ONE
5 MISSISSIPPI" BY STEVE AZAR AS THE OFFICIAL CONTEMPORARY MUSIC SONG
6 OF MISSISSIPPI; TO REPEAL CHAPTER 654, LAWS OF 1962, WHICH

7 DESIGNATED "GO MISSISSIPPI" AS THE OFFICIAL SONG OF THE STATE OF
8 MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

SS08\HB1487A.3J

Eugene S. Clarke
Secretary of the Senate