

By: Representative Nelson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 139

1 A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING MISSISSIPPI AS THE HOME AND
2 BIRTHPLACE OF THE SOUTHERN SOUL MUSIC GENRE.

3 WHEREAS, Mississippi stands unparalleled in its historical
4 contribution to American music, having given rise to genres such
5 as the Blues, Gospel, Jazz, Country, and Rock & Roll, and being
6 the cradle for legendary artists including Robert Johnson from
7 Clarksdale, B.B. King from Indianola, Jimmie Rodgers from
8 Meridian, Elvis Presley from Tupelo, and the globally celebrated
9 Mississippi Mass Choir; and

10 WHEREAS, among these musical treasures, Southern Soul music
11 shines brightly, capturing the hearts of an ever-expanding
12 audience each day; and

13 WHEREAS, Mississippi, through iconic institutions such as
14 Malaco Records, established in 1967, along with numerous private
15 studios, has nurtured a rich environment for Southern Soul music,
16 bringing to the forefront talents like Bobby Rush, Willie Clayton,
17 Grady Champion, Vick Allen, Arthur Young, Big Yayo, Ms. Jody,
18 Stephanie Lockett, J-Wonn, Big Mel, Young Guy, and Nellie Tiger



19 Travis. This fertile musical landscape has also been home to
20 LaMorris Williams, OB Buchana, Jaye Hammer, and Isaac Lindsey,
21 further enriched by Vickie Baker, the Jay Morris Group, David
22 Brinston, King Fred, JL Smith, Andre Lee, Adrena, Coco, LJ Echols,
23 Ms Goldie, Lucille Bogan, Mose Allison, James Carr, Jerry Butler,
24 SSK WISH, Mz. Dria, Teeza, Jones, JCenae, Oboi Dwayne, Delo Brown,
25 Miron Simpson, Ray Ray Daniels, Jessica Ray, Breeze "Mrdo2much,"
26 Brutha Hubbard, Prince Kween, Lady Redtopp, Mazerati Red, Jake
27 Carter, Bre Wooten, JL Thompson, Jennifer Watts, Narvell Echols,
28 Kountry Kev, Carolyn Staten, Music Doll, John Haley, Dia Grover,
29 Melodic Princess, 2smooth, Keneisha, Lil A 601, Prep Cashmere,
30 Allen Mane, Denzel Dante, Compozitionz, Soul City Sons, and Sweet
31 P, not forgetting the enduring legacies of the late Johnnie
32 Taylor, Mel Waiters, Katrenia Jefferson, Marvin Sease, Billy
33 "Soul" Bonds and Tyrone Davis; and

34 WHEREAS, each artist, in their unique way, has passionately
35 contributed their voice to the Southern Soul genre, showcasing
36 their talents and sharing their musical gifts with every
37 performance and platform offered to them; and

38 WHEREAS, disc jockeys have been instrumental in the vitality
39 of Southern Soul music, serving as key figures in its circulation
40 among listeners. Notably, individuals such as Uncle BoBo, Jerry
41 "Boogie" Mason, Charles "Ragman" Johnson, James "Handy Man" Price,
42 Jimmy Jam, DJ Outlaw, DJ Queen Bee, Brother Love, John "The
43 Legendary J Faulk" Faulkner, David Doc Shanks, Mr. T,



44 ThaBeatAholiC DJ 783, DJ Bigg V, Cousin Chief, Mississippi King
45 the Southern Soul Jody, DJ Big O', DJ Black, DJ Flavor, Randy
46 "Wildman" Brown, Sheree "Lady Sheree", Annie "Lil' Miss Soul"
47 Fairly, and DJ Cee have significantly contributed to the genre's
48 growth and reach, showcasing Southern Soul music across various
49 platforms and venues, thereby enriching the musical landscape and
50 ensuring the genre's vibrant presence in the hearts of listeners;
51 and

52 WHEREAS, Mississippi has been at the forefront of promoting
53 Southern Soul, through pioneering radio stations such as WRTM
54 100.5, WMPR 90.1, WGNL 104.3, Blues 93.1, and many more stations
55 contribute to this recognition. Mississippi has also produced the
56 prestigious Jackson Music Awards for the past 50 years,
57 celebrating the achievements of Southern Soul artists locally,
58 statewide, and internationally; and

59 WHEREAS, the advancement of Southern Soul culture has
60 significantly benefited from the efforts of dedicated promoters.
61 Among them, Mr. Lee King of Lee King Entertainment and Mr. Jesse
62 Thompson, who not only initiated the Jackson Music Awards but
63 also, with their 95 years of combined experience, have played a
64 crucial role in supporting Southern Soul artists. Furthermore,
65 promoters such as Yolanda Singleton with Xperience Jackson and
66 many more have made substantial contributions by endorsing
67 Southern Soul music at the local, regional, national, and
68 international levels; and



69 WHEREAS, key organizations and companies, including the
70 Southern Soul Foundation, Southern Soul Media Group, and Southern
71 Soul Music Society, have played vital roles in supporting artists
72 and facilitating the dissemination of Southern Soul music to the
73 broader public; and

74 WHEREAS, Mississippi is home of the second oldest festival in
75 Mississippi and the oldest Southern Soul festival in the world,
76 the "Farish Street Heritage Festival," holding that record for 39
77 years to date; and

78 WHEREAS, the "Farish Street Heritage Festival" features
79 several stages of live entertainment presenting local, regional
80 and national artists and performers, as well as providing an
81 extravaganza for the entire family, offering a diverse array of
82 cultural programming in Mississippi, and exposing festival
83 participants to artists that cannot be frequently seen; and

84 WHEREAS, Mississippi has produced an endless list of Southern
85 Soul artists who have not only created, but has also transformed
86 this musical genre into what it has become, and provides
87 irrefutable credence to capital city's motto, branding and
88 marketing itself as the "City With Soul"; and

89 WHEREAS, on June 11, 2019, the Jackson City Council
90 spearheaded by then Councilman DeKeither Stamps now declared the
91 Commissioner of Southern Soul and Trail Rides, took a significant
92 step in further cementing the city's role in the musical landscape



93 by unanimously approving a declaration that proclaimed the City of
94 Jackson as "the home and birthplace of Southern Soul"; and

95 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
96 champion the promotional efforts of its cities and towns to
97 highlight the best of their offerings in the form of resources,
98 history, attractions, education, arts and entertainment, just as
99 the City of Jackson has in establishing itself as the crown jewel
100 musicality in relation to birthing the Southern Soul music genre:

101 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
102 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
103 acknowledge the rich musical history that is synonymous with the
104 City of Jackson, Mississippi, and acknowledge Mississippi as the
105 home and birthplace of the Southern Soul music genre.

106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
107 furnished to the City of Jackson's Mayor and City Council, the
108 president of the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau and to the
109 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

