

By: Senator(s) Chassaniol, Younger,
Fillingane, Thompson, Wiggins, DeBar

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2918

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 3-3-22, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO DESIGNATE THE KEMP'S RIDLEY SEA TURTLE AS THE OFFICIAL
3 STATE TURTLE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
7 3-3-22, Mississippi Code of 1972:

8 3-3-22. The Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
9 is hereby designated as the official state turtle of the State of
10 Mississippi. The Kemp's ridley sea turtle, native to the Gulf of
11 Mexico and North Atlantic Ocean, is the smallest, most endangered
12 sea turtle species. In 2022, the Institute for Marine Mammal
13 Studies discovered the first nest of Kemp's ridley sea turtles on
14 Ship Island, the first step in the restoration and recovery of the
15 species in Mississippi. It is the intent of the Legislature that
16 this designation bring awareness to the species and affirm
17 Mississippi's commitment to the protection and conservation of the
18 Kemp's ridley sea turtle and its habitat.



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

