

By: Representatives Holland, Robinson  
(84th), Cameron, Scott (17th), Peranich, Gadd

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 951

1 AN ACT CREATING A NEW SECTION 3-3-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
2 1972, DESIGNATING THE TEDDY BEAR AS THE STATE TOY; AND FOR RELATED  
3 PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, the Teddy Bear has remained one of America's  
5 all-time favorite toys for nearly a century; and

6 WHEREAS, the origin of the Teddy Bear dates back to a hunting  
7 trip in Smedes, Mississippi, on November 14, 1902; and

8 WHEREAS, during that particular hunting expedition, President  
9 Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot a small, exhausted black bear;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the shot not fired at the cuddly creature in the  
12 Mississippi Delta was soon heard around the land as a great credit  
13 to the heroic and sportsmanlike conduct of President Roosevelt;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, because of this journey by the President to  
16 Mississippi, the stuffed bear toy, appropriately named the "Teddy  
17 Bear," evolved and continues to be a universal symbol of love,  
18 comfort and joy for children of all ages; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

20 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
21 3-3-43, Mississippi Code of 1972:

22 3-3-43. The Teddy Bear is designated the state toy of  
23 Mississippi.

24 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
25 and after July 1, 2002.

