

SENATE BILL 473

By Haile

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-1-303, relative to an official state poem of Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-1-303, is amended by deleting the language "the official state poem" and substituting instead "an official state poem"; and is further amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and by adding the following new subsection (b):

(b) The poem entitled, "My Tennessee," by Michael McDonald, is designated and adopted as an official state poem for this state, which poem reads as follows:

Cowboy boots, pickup trucks,
White-faced bulls, and lespedeza hay,
Cottontails runnin', beagle dogs singin'
Huntin' with Grandpa, on a gray, frosty day.

Sunday mornin' preachin, hell-fire and brimstone,
Country ham for dinner, banana puddin' and ice tea,
Pitchin' them horse-shoes, watermelon cuttin',
Friends and kinfolk underneath the old oak tree.

Tennessee, you're a raging river,
A Lookout Mountain, seeing as far as you can see,
Bloody Shiloh, brother against brother,

General Grant and Robert E. Lee,

Sittin' on a feed sack, pickin' my guitar,
Writin' them songs, in a country kinda way,
Whittlin' on a cedar stick, spittin' tobacco juice,
Spinnin' them yarns, about by-gone days.

Andrew Jackson and ol' Davy Crockett
Always were heroes to me.
Buckskin britches, black-powder rifles,
Dreamin' 'bout freedom and the days that used to be.

Tennessee I'll never leave you,
You're the heart and soul of me,
Mighty Mississippi, Great Smoky Mountains,
You're all these things, and more to me.

Matched-pair of sorrel mules, Tennessee walkers,
Munchin' on a moon pie and an R.O.C.;
Duck-head overalls, wish I had a Goo Goo;
All rared back listenin' to the Grand Ole Opry.

Tennessee I'll never leave you,
You're the heart and soul of me,
Mighty Mississippi, Great Smoky Mountains,
All these things, my Tennessee.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.