

ACT No. 471

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 351

BY REPRESENTATIVES PIERRE, AMEDEE, BRYANT, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, COX, DUPLESSIS, FREEMAN, GREEN, HARRIS, HUGHES, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JONES, GREGORY MILLER, NEWELL, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, STAGNI, WHITE, AND WILLARD

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 49:155(A) and (B), relative to state symbols; to designate
3 "Southern Nights" by Allen Toussaint as the official state cultural song; and to
4 provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 49:155(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 §155. State song

9 ~~A. The official state song for the State of Louisiana shall be a musical~~
10 ~~composition, with words and music by Doralice Fontane, entitled: "Give Me~~
11 ~~Louisiana", the words and music⁺ reading as follows:~~

12 ~~Give me Louisiana,~~
13 ~~The state where I was born~~
14 ~~The state of snowy cotton,~~
15 ~~The best I've ever known,~~
16 ~~A state of sweet magnolias~~
17 ~~And creole melodies~~
18 ~~Oh give me Louisiana,~~
19 ~~The state where I was born~~
20 ~~Oh what sweet old memories~~
21 ~~The mossy old oaks bring~~

1 It brings us the story of our Evangeline
2 A state of old tradition,
3 Of old plantation days
4 Makes good old Louisiana
5 The sweetest of all states:
6 Give me Louisiana,
7 A state prepared to share
8 That good old southern custom,
9 Hospitality so rare;
10 A state of fruit and flowers,
11 Of sunshine and spring showers
12 Oh give me Louisiana,
13 The state where I was born
14 Its woodlands, Its marshes
15 Where humble trappers live
16 Its rivers, Its valleys,
17 A place to always give
18 A state where work is pleasure,
19 With blessings in full measure
20 Makes good old Louisiana
21 The dearest of all states:
22 Give me Louisiana,
23 Where love birds always sing
24 In shady lanes or pastures,
25 The cowbells softly ring;
26 The softness of the sunset
27 Brings peace and blissful rest
28 Oh give me Louisiana,
29 The state where I was born

1 ~~The smell of sweet clover~~
2 ~~Which blossoms ev'rywhere~~
3 ~~The fresh new mown hay~~
4 ~~Where children romp and play~~
5 ~~A state of love and laughter,~~
6 ~~A state for all here after~~
7 ~~Makes good old Louisiana~~
8 ~~The grandest of all states.~~

9 ~~B.~~ A. The official state song for the state of Louisiana shall ~~also~~ be the
10 musical composition with words and music by Jimmy H. Davis and Charles
11 Mitchell, entitled "You Are My Sunshine"; the words reading as follows:

12 Verses:
13 The other night, dear
14 As I lay sleeping
15 I dreamed I held you in my arms
16 When I awoke, dear
17 I was mistaken
18 And I hung my head and cried;
19 I'll always love you
20 And make you happy
21 If you will only say the same
22 But if you leave me
23 To love another
24 You'll regret it all some day;
25 You told me once, dear
26 You really loved me
27 And no one else could come between
28 But now you've left me
29 And love another

1 You have shattered all my dreams;
2 Louisiana my Louisiana
3 the place where I was borne.
4 White fields of cotton
5 --green fields of clover,
6 the best fishing
7 and long tall corn;
8 Crawfish gumbo and jambalaya
9 the biggest shrimp and sugar cane,
10 the finest oysters
11 and sweet strawberries
12 from Toledo Bend to New Orleans;

13 Chorus:

14 YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

15 My only sunshine

16 You make me happy

17 When skies are grey

18 You'll never know dear

19 How much I love you

20 Please don't take my sunshine away.

21 B. The official state cultural song for the state of Louisiana shall be the
22 musical composition with words and music by Allen Toussaint, entitled "Southern
23 Nights", which was inspired by Allen Toussaint's time spent in Terrebonne Parish;
24 the words reading as follows:

25 Southern nights

26 Have you ever felt a Southern night?

27 Free as a breeze

28 Not to mention the trees

29 Whistling tunes that you know and love so

1 Southern nights
2 Just as good even when closed your eyes
3 I apologize
4 To any one who can truly say
5 That he's found a better way
6 Southern skies
7 Have you ever noticed southern skies?
8 It's precious beauty
9 Lies just beyond the eye
10 It goes running through the soul
11 Like the stories told of old
12 Old man
13 He and his dog that walk the old land
14 Every flower touched his cold hand
15 As he slowly walked by
16 Weeping willows would cry for joy
17 Joy
18 Feels so good
19 Feels so good it's frightening
20 Wish I could
21 Stop this world from fighting
22 La-da-da-da-da, da-la-da-da-da-da
23 Da-da-da-da-da-da, da-da-da, da-da-da
24 Mystery
25 Like this and many others
26 In the trees
27 Blow in the night
28 In the southern skies
29 Southern nights

- 1 They feel so good it's frightening
- 2 Wish I could
- 3 Stop this world from fighting
- 4 Da-da-da-da-da, da-da-da-da-da-da
- 5 Da-da-da-da-da, la-da-da, da-da-da-da, da-da-da-da-da-da...

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____