

SJR 24

1 THE STATE SENATE
2 Monday, February 23, 2009

3 Senate Joint
4 Resolution No. 24

5 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24 - By: Schulz of the Senate and Dorman
6 of the House.

7 A Joint Resolution recognizing _____ as the official
8 Oklahoma State Rock and Roll Song; providing for
9 codification; directing distribution; and declaring an
10 emergency.

11 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature has adopted a State Folk Song
12 (Oklahoma Hills, Jack and Woody Guthrie, 2001), a State Country and
13 Western Song (Faded Love, Bob Willis, 1988), and an official state
14 song (Oklahoma, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, 1953); and

15 WHEREAS, Oklahoma has been home to many exceptional Rock and
16 Roll performers and song writers and no official Rock and Roll Song
17 has been adopted; and

18 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the 2nd Session of the
19 51st Legislature, with the Oklahoma State Senate concurring therein,
20 adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 1047 specifying how the
21 Oklahoma Historical Society would conduct a competition to select
22 the official Rock and Roll Song; specifying how and when nominated
23 songs shall be narrowed by an expert panel; specifying composition
24 of expert panel; specifying that the public will be allowed to vote

1 for the official Rock and Roll Song; and providing the winning song
2 will be presented to the Oklahoma Legislature in 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2009 the Oklahoma History Center will celebrate the
4 state's Rock and Roll Heritage in an exhibit titled "Another Hot
5 Oklahoma Night"; and

6 WHEREAS, the people of Oklahoma nominated Four Hundred and
7 Fifty-four songs, the expert panel, chosen in accordance with House
8 Concurrent Resolution 1047, narrowed the list to ten, and the people
9 of Oklahoma voted for the top song; and

10 WHEREAS, 21,061 people voted through the Oklahoma Historical
11 Society and 10,738 or nearly 51 percent, voted for the winning song;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, each song of the top ten is worthy to be the official
14 state Rock and Roll Song and are included in this resolution; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1956, Oklahoma school teacher Mae Boren Axton co-
16 wrote Elvis Presley's hit song "Heartbreak Hotel". An iconic song
17 in Rock and Roll's history, "Heartbreak Hotel" sat atop the pop
18 charts for eight weeks. Axton, sister of U.S. Congressman Lyle
19 Boren, continued to write songs until her death on April 9, 1997;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, in 1958, Wanda Jackson recorded "Lets Have a Party"
22 which Capitol Records released in 1960 to chart success. Backed by
23 one of Rock and Roll's first integrated bands, the Poe Cats with

1 fellow Oklahoman Big Al Downing on piano, Jackson became the "Queen
2 of Rockabilly"; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1960, the Ventures version of "Walk, Don't Run"
4 climbed to number two on the Billboard Hot 100. Oklahoman Bob Bogle
5 suggested the band cover the song. The Ventures also included
6 Oklahoman Nokie Edwards and promoted Oklahoma guitar-maker Semie
7 Mosley's Mosrite guitars; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1965, Oklahoman J.J. Cale recorded "After Midnight"
9 which Eric Clapton rereleased in 1970. J.J. Cale released another
10 version on his album "Naturally". Clapton recorded many of Cale's
11 songs. Other artists have also tapped into Cale's writing ability.
12 These include Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Band, Deep Purple, and Tom Petty;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, in 1971, Three Dog Night released "Never Been to
15 Spain", written by Oklahoman Hoyt Axton. The song skyrocketed to
16 number five in the charts. Axton, son of songwriter Mae Boren
17 Axton, collaborated several times with this band. Hoyt Axton died
18 on October 26, 1999; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1971, Leon Russell reigned as one of Rock and Roll's
20 biggest stars. That year he released "Home Sweet Oklahoma", paying
21 homage to his native state. The song shows Russell's devotion to
22 Oklahoma, as he made the Tulsa area his base of operations. Leon

1 brought in stars such as George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton
2 and Tom Petty to record at his Church Studios; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1986, the Call, which included two Oklahomans,
4 Michael Been and Scott Musick, released the critically acclaimed
5 album, Reconciled. The song "Oklahoma" conjured images of their
6 home state's tent revivals and turbulent weather. Later,
7 presidential hopeful Al Gore used The Call's "Let the Day Begin" as
8 his campaign anthem; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2002, the Flaming Lips released "Do You Realize" on
10 their album Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots, to overwhelming
11 critical success. The avant-garde band has more than three decades
12 of musical achievement, proving to be one of Oklahoma's most
13 successful bands, having won three Grammys. The Lips continue to
14 add to their diverse and die-hard fan base; and

15 WHEREAS, formed in 2001, the All-American Rejects released "Move
16 Along" in 2006, from their 2005 album of the same name. The song
17 hit number one on the Digital Download Chart. The band is composed
18 of Tyson Ritter and Nick Wheeler from Stillwater and Mike Kennerty
19 and Chris Gaylor from Edmond; and

20 WHEREAS, John Moreland and the Black Gold Band represent a
21 popular Oklahoma Indie band that has produced a song that reflects
22 the melodic scenes of the Sooner State. "Endless Oklahoma Sky"

1 captures a positive feeling of Oklahoma's present beauty, culture,
2 and music.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

5 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 94.11 of Title 25, unless there
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 Pursuant to a vote of the people of this state, the official
9 Oklahoma State Rock and Roll Song is hereby declared to be the words
10 and music of the song _____, composed and written by
11 _____. Except for nonprofit educational use, state use of the
12 state rock song shall be preceded by notice of the intended
13 nonprofit use to the copyright holder.

14 SECTION 2. The Secretary of State is hereby directed to
15 distribute copies of this resolution to _____.

16 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
17 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

20 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & WILDLIFE, dated 2-19-09
21 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.