

By: Representative Moak (By Request)

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1091

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE WATERMELON SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS  
2 THE OFFICIAL STATE FRUIT OF MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

3 WHEREAS, love of state and professions are enhanced by  
4 traditions that have become a part of our way of life and the  
5 customs of the American people; and

6 WHEREAS, the watermelon, which was first introduced to North  
7 American Indians in the 1500s, who were found by early French  
8 explorers cultivating the fruit in the Mississippi Valley, has  
9 consistently been an American and Southern tradition on hot summer  
10 days, family picnics and 4th of July celebrations; and

11 WHEREAS, we have no official designation of a state fruit;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, official recognition of the watermelon will enhance  
14 the cultural stature of Mississippi both nationally and  
15 internationally; and

16 WHEREAS, national and international prestige is in the best  
17 interest of all Americans; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

19 **SECTION 1.** The watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*) is hereby  
20 designated the official state fruit of Mississippi.

21 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified in  
22 Chapter 3, Title 3, Mississippi Code of 1972.

23 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
24 and after July 1, 2007.