

By: Representatives Rogers (14th) (By Request), Beckett, Hamilton (6th), Morgan, Montgomery, Palazzo

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1391

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE SWEET POTATO SHALL BE DESIGNATED
2 AS THE OFFICIAL STATE VEGETABLE OF MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED
3 PURPOSES.

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

7 WHEREAS, the sweet potato, which is largely produced in
8 Mississippi, making it one of the nation's leading producers,
9 produced on approximately 8200 acres in the state; and

10 WHEREAS, with approximately 150 Mississippi farmers presently
11 cultivating, sweet potatoes contribute \$19 million to the economy
12 of the state; and

13 WHEREAS, Mississippi's top five sweet potato producing
14 counties are Calhoun, Chickasaw, Pontotoc, Yalobusha and Panola;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the National Sweet Potato Festival is held annually
17 the entire first week in November in Vardaman, Mississippi, which
18 proclaims itself as "The Sweet Potato Capitol"; and

19 WHEREAS, we have no official designation of a state
20 vegetable; and

21 WHEREAS, official recognition of the sweet potato will
22 enhance the cultural stature of Mississippi both nationally and
23 internationally; and

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

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

27 **SECTION 1.** The sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) is hereby
28 designated the official state vegetable of Mississippi.

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

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