

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

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1392

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.