

1 SB98  
2 204369-1  
3 By Senators Butler and Orr  
4 RFD: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
5 First Read: 04-FEB-20

SYNOPSIS: This bill would designate the sweet potato as the official state vegetable of Alabama.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To designate the sweet potato as the official state vegetable of Alabama.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

(1) With the passing of the Bicentennial Celebration of Alabama, it has become known that Alabama lacks an official state vegetable.

(2) In 2015, the Alabama Farmers Federation reported that the great State of Alabama ranks sixth among the nation in the production of sweet potatoes; the crop brings an estimated \$9 million annually to the state, making it one of Alabama's main crops.

1           (3) The sandy loam soil of the state allows sweet  
2 potatoes to grow quickly and freely, enabling Alabama to  
3 produce some of the largest and tastiest sweet potatoes in the  
4 country.

5           (4) The sweet potato has long been an Alabama  
6 staple; delicious sweet potato dishes have been listed in  
7 prominent media outlets such as the Food Network as a "top  
8 food to eat in Alabama" and in Southern Living Magazine as a  
9 Southern holiday tradition.

10          (5) In light of the above, this body can conjure no  
11 better vegetable to represent Alabama, its farmers, and its  
12 culinary culture.

13          (6) This body thanks Kristin Smith of Harvest,  
14 Alabama, and her homeschool class for their excellent proposal  
15 on behalf of the sweet potato which led to this designation.

16          Section 2. The sweet potato is the official state  
17 vegetable of Alabama.

18          Section 3. This act shall become effective  
19 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
20 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.