

1 HB350
2 217512-2
3 By Representatives Allen, Sorrells, Marques, Jones (M), Lee,
4 Sells, Clouse, Shiver, Faust, Simpson, Baker and Brown (C)
5 RFD: State Government
6 First Read: 15-FEB-22

1 ENGROSSED

2
3
4 A BILL
5 TO BE ENTITLED
6 AN ACT
7

8 Relating to official state designations; to
9 designate the peanut as the official state legume of Alabama.
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

11 Section 1. The Legislature finds all of the
12 following:

13 (1) George Washington Carver was an agricultural
14 scientist and inventor who developed hundreds of products
15 using peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. Born into slavery
16 a year before it was outlawed, Carver left home at a young age
17 to pursue an education and would eventually earn a Master's
18 Degree in Agricultural Science from Iowa State University. He
19 would go on to teach and conduct research at Tuskegee
20 University for decades.

21 (2) Born on a farm near Diamond, Missouri, the exact
22 date of Carver's birth is unknown, but it is thought he was
23 born in January or June of 1864.

24 (3) At a young age, Carver took a keen interest in
25 plants and experimented with natural pesticides, fungicides,
26 and soil conditioners. He became known as the "the plant

1 doctor" to local farmers due to his ability to discern how to
2 improve the health of their gardens, fields, and orchards.

3 (4) In 1894, Carver became the first African
4 American to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. Impressed by
5 Carver's research on the fungal infections of soybean plants,
6 his professors encouraged him to pursue graduate studies. In
7 1896, Carver earned his Master of Agriculture degree and
8 immediately received several teaching offers, the most
9 attractive of which came from Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee
10 Institute in Alabama.

11 (5) Washington convinced the university's trustees
12 to establish an agricultural school and Carver accepted the
13 offer to run the program and would work at Tuskegee Institute
14 for the remainder of his life. Carver taught there for 47
15 years, developing the department into a strong research center
16 and working with two additional college presidents during his
17 tenure. He taught methods of crop rotation, introduced several
18 alternative cash crops for farmers that would also improve the
19 soil of areas heavily cultivated in cotton, and initiated
20 research into crop products.

21 (6) Farmers enjoyed the higher yields of cotton they
22 were achieving as a result of Carver's crop rotation
23 technique. However, the technique resulted in a surplus of
24 peanuts and other non-cotton products. Carver then worked on
25 finding alternative uses for these products, with his biggest
26 success coming from peanuts. In all, he developed more than
27 300 food, industrial, and commercial products from peanuts,

1 including milk, flour, Worcestershire sauce, punches, cooking
2 oils, salad oil, paper, dyes, paints, writing ink, cosmetics,
3 soaps, and wood stains.

4 (7) In 1937, Carver was asked for a list of the
5 peanut products that he had developed. He wrote in reply,
6 "There are more than 300 of them. I do not attempt to keep a
7 list, as a list today would not be the same tomorrow."
8 However, Carver did write down advice and recipes, which he
9 shared in agricultural bulletins such as "How to Grow the
10 Peanut and 105 Ways of Preparing it For Human Consumption"
11 (1916). Thus, while we cannot see all of Carver's formulas,
12 Carver's instructions for peanut soup, peanut bread, peanut
13 cake, and more are still available.

14 (8) Carver died January 5, 1943, at the age of 79.
15 He was buried next to Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee
16 University. On his grave was written, "He could have added
17 fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness
18 and honor in being helpful to the world.

19 Section 2. The peanut is designated as the official
20 state legume of Alabama.

21 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
22 first day of the third month following its passage and
23 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14

15
16
17
18

House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives committee on State Government
..... 15-FEB-22

Read for the second time and placed
on the calendar..... 09-MAR-22

Read for the third time and passed
as amended..... 10-MAR-22

Yeas 100, Nays 0, Abstains 0

Jeff Woodard
Clerk