

1 HB350
2 217512-3
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
2 ENROLLED, An Act,

3 Relating to official state designations; to
4 designate the peanut as the official state legume of Alabama.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

6 Section 1. The Legislature finds all of the
7 following:

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

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

19 (3) At a young age, Carver took a keen interest in
20 plants and experimented with natural pesticides, fungicides,
21 and soil conditioners. He became known as the "the plant
22 doctor" to local farmers due to his ability to discern how to
23 improve the health of their gardens, fields, and orchards.

24 (4) In 1894, Carver became the first African
25 American to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. Impressed by

1 Carver's research on the fungal infections of soybean plants,
2 his professors encouraged him to pursue graduate studies. In
3 1896, Carver earned his Master of Agriculture degree and
4 immediately received several teaching offers, the most
5 attractive of which came from Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee
6 Institute in Alabama.

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

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

1 oils, salad oil, paper, dyes, paints, writing ink, cosmetics,
2 soaps, and wood stains.

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

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

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

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

