

HB229 INTRODUCED



1 HB229
2 8JB52HF-1
3 By Representative Bolton
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 27-Feb-24



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would designate Little Bluestem as the official State Native Grass of Alabama.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to state symbols; to designate Little Bluestem as the official state native grass.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(1) *Schizachyrium scoparium*, commonly known as Little Bluestem, is a warm-season grass native to lower Canada and all of the United States except Nevada and Washington.

(2) Little Bluestem fosters healthier Alabama ecosystems by maintaining ecological balance and creating and enhancing habitats that support environmental heterogeneity.

(3) Little Bluestem is vital to the overall resilience of Alabama ecosystems by combating Alabama's challenges regarding drought conditions and soil erosion.

(4) Little Bluestem contributes to the overall richness of Alabama's wildlife. In addition to the structure of Little



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29 Bluestem offering cover and nesting sites for birds, insects,
30 and small mammals, the seeds of Little Bluestem serve as a
31 food source for various organisms.

32 (5) Little Bluestem's distinctive blue-green foliage
33 and reddish-brown seed heads offer unique aesthetic benefits
34 for the residents and visitors of Alabama by adding to the
35 inherent beauty of Alabama's landscapes and natural areas.

36 (6) The planting of Little Bluestem aligns with
37 existing conservation and ecological restoration initiatives
38 in Alabama. Little Bluestem's inclusion in restoration
39 projects aids in the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems,
40 particularly in areas impacted by agriculture, urbanization,
41 and other land-use changes.

42 (b) Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, is hereby
43 declared to be the official State Native Grass of Alabama.

44 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
45 1, 2024.