

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 96 (Delegate Cane)
Health and Government Operations

State Designations - State Sandwich - Soft-Shell Crab Sandwich

This bill designates the soft-shell crab sandwich as the State sandwich.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Designating a State sandwich does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland State Flag was adopted in 1904 followed by the adoption of the Black-eyed Susan as the State flower in 1918. Since then, the State has adopted many additional official symbols, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor is also authorized to designate a citizen as the State's Poet Laureate.

As the historical agency for Maryland, the State Archives is the central depository for government records of permanent value, as well as certain designated private records. These records are available to the public for research about topics, including State symbols, on an ongoing basis. The State Archivist may, on request or at the State Archivist's discretion, review, evaluate, and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding State designations under Title 13 of the State Government Article.

Background: Blue crabs and Maryland have long been associated. The brackish waters of the Chesapeake Bay provide an ideal habitat, and they are the State’s most valuable commercial fishery. In 1989, the blue crab was designated the State Crustacean.

Blue crabs are harvested as hard-shell crabs, peeler crabs (just prior to molting), and soft-shell crabs (immediately after the molt). Soft-shell crabs are generally only available during the summer months, and although the molting process can take a few days, the shells are soft for only a few hours.

Soft-shell crab sandwiches are generally quite simple. A traditional sandwich consists of a breaded and fried soft-shell crab between two slices of white bread or toast. Lettuce and tomato are common additions; as well as lemon, Old Bay seasoning, or some tartar sauce. The focus of the sandwich is the sweet and savory meat of the crab and the crunch of the soft shell.

Exhibit 1
State Symbols of Maryland

<u>Type</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Statutory Authority</u>
Bird	Baltimore Oriole	Ch. 54 of 1947
Boat	Skipjack	Ch. 788 of 1985
Cat	Calico Cat	Ch. 194 of 2001
Crustacean	Blue Crab	Ch. 724 of 1989
Dessert	Smith Island Cake	Chs. 164/165 of 2008
Dinosaur	<i>Astrodon johnstoni</i>	Chs. 403/404 of 1998
Dog	Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Ch. 156 of 1964
Drink	Milk	Ch. 220 of 1998
Exercise	Walking	Chs. 400/401 of 2008
Fish	Rockfish (Striped Bass)	Ch. 513 of 1965
Flower	Black-eyed Susan	Ch. 458 of 1918
Folk Dance	Square Dance	Ch. 707 of 1994
Fossil Shell	<i>Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae</i>	Ch. 688 of 1994
Gem	Patuxent River Stone	Ch. 272 of 2004
Horse	Thoroughbred Horse	Ch. 359 of 2003
Insect	Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly	Ch. 253 of 1973
Reptile	Diamondback Terrapin	Ch. 476 of 1994
Song	“Maryland, My Maryland”	Ch. 451 of 1939
Sport	Jousting	Ch. 134 of 1962
Team Sport	Lacrosse	Ch. 272 of 2004
Theater	Center Stage	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Theater – Summer	Olney Theatre	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Tree	White Oak	Ch. 731 of 1941

Source: Maryland State Archives

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 26 of 2013 received a favorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and was passed by the Senate. However, no further action was taken on the bill. It's cross file, HB 13, received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: SB 29 (Senators Colburn and Miller) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Archives, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 8, 2014
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