

ASSEMBLY, No. 3344

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Moran, Chivukula and Senator Ciesla

SYNOPSIS

Designates highbush blueberry as New Jersey State Fruit.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/12/2003)

1 AN ACT designating the highbush blueberry as the New Jersey State
2 Fruit.

3
4 WHEREAS, The highbush blueberry is indigenous to New Jersey,
5 where it was first cultivated for commercial production, due to
6 pioneering work by New Jerseyan Elizabeth White and Dr.
7 Frederick Covile, who in the early 1900's dedicated themselves to
8 the study, domestication, and breeding of blueberries at Whitesbog,
9 in Browns Mills, New Jersey; and

10 WHEREAS, The cultivation of highbush blueberries in New Jersey
11 served as the basis for an entirely new agricultural industry; and

12 WHEREAS, Blueberries taste good, are good for you, are high in fiber,
13 vitamin C, and antioxidants, are sodium and cholesterol-free, are
14 low in calories and may provide medical and health benefits,
15 including the prevention of cancer and heart disease; and

16 WHEREAS, Blueberries are appreciated around the world, especially
17 in the area of nutrition and the emerging field of nutraceuticals,
18 where blueberries are known for their health benefits and medicinal
19 properties; and

20 WHEREAS, New Jersey ranks second in the nation in blueberry
21 cultivation, producing 21 percent of the nation's total, with 38
22 million pounds grown annually on 8,000 acres, spanning seven
23 counties in central and southern New Jersey; and

24 WHEREAS, New Jersey is widely recognized as the blueberry capital
25 of the nation, and the highbush blueberry, also known as the "New
26 Jersey blueberry," is the ideal symbol of a delicious, nutritious, and
27 healthful fruit; now, therefore,

28
29 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
30 of New Jersey:

31
32 1. The highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) is designated
33 as the New Jersey State Fruit.

34
35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

36
37 STATEMENT

38
39 This bill, inspired by Mrs. Suzanne E. Kurasz's and Mrs. Gail
40 Damiano's fourth grade classes at Veterans Memorial Elementary
41 School, Brick, New Jersey, designates the highbush blueberry
42 (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) as the New Jersey State Fruit. Blueberries
43 were first cultivated for commercial production in New Jersey,
44 resulting in an entirely new agricultural industry. The highbush
45 blueberry is an ideal symbol of a delicious, nutritious, and healthful
46 fruit.