## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2013

Н

## HOUSE BILL 830 PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H830-PCS30502-LG-7

Short Title: Adopt State Symbols.

(Public)

D

Sponsors:

Referred to:

## April 11, 2013

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO ADOPT AN OFFICIAL STATE FOSSIL, FROG, SALAMANDER,
3	MARSUPIAL, FOLK ART, AND ART MEDIUM.
4	Whereas, some of North Carolina's official State symbols have been suggested by
5	the State's school children after they have had history, science, social studies, or geography
6	lessons related to North Carolina; and
7	Whereas, this year some of the suggestions range from the adoption of an official
8	fossil to an official frog; and
9	Whereas, the State of North Carolina has a number of unique official symbols but
10	does not have an official fossil, frog, salamander, marsupial, folk art, or art medium; and
11	Whereas, the megalodon shark is an extinct shark species that lived over 1.5 million
12	years ago; and
13	Whereas, the megalodon shark may have reached over 40 feet in length and
14	weighed up to 100 tons; and
15	Whereas, the megalodon shark had serrated, heart-shaped teeth that may have
16	grown to over seven inches in length; and
17	Whereas, fossilized teeth of the megalodon shark have been found in North Carolina
18	and throughout the world; and
19	Whereas, North Carolina and the Southeast region of the United States lead the
20	world in amphibian diversity; and
21	Whereas, the pine barrens tree frog can be found in the Sandhills and Coastal Plain
22	regions of North Carolina; and
23	Whereas, the pine barrens tree frog has been considered one of the most striking and
24	beautiful frogs in the Southeast region of the United States; and
25	Whereas, the pine barrens tree frog by name reflects one of North Carolina's
26	signature trees and ecosystems that have been a vital part of the State's economic, cultural, and
27	natural history since colonial times; and
28	Whereas, North Carolina also leads the nation and world in salamander diversity,
29	most notably in our Appalachian Mountains; and
30	Whereas, the marbled salamander is found throughout the State and is unique in that
31	it is a charismatic, striking, chunky-bodied, fossorial amphibian, of which no two are exactly
32	alike in color pattern; and
33	Whereas, according the North Carolina Wildlife Commission's 2005 North Carolina
34	Wildlife Action Plan, the pine barrens tree frog and the marbled salamander have been
35	identified as priority species for population monitoring and conservation in North Carolina; and



1	Whereas, the Virginia opossum is native to North Carolina and is the only marsupial
2	found in North America; the female carries its underdeveloped young in a pouch until they are
3	capable of living independently, similar to a kangaroo; and
4	Whereas, the Virginia opossum is one of the oldest and most primitive species of
5	mammal found in North America; and
6	Whereas, the Virginia opossum is about the size of a large house cat with a
7	triangular head; a long pointed nose; dark eyes; a long, scaly, prehensile tail; and short, black,
8	leathery ears; and
9	Whereas, the Virginia opossum is nocturnal and lives in a wide variety of habitats,
10	including deciduous forests, open woods, and farmland but prefers wet areas such as marshes,
11	swamps, and streams; and
12	Whereas, at age 65, Vollis Simpson, a self-taught folk artist, began making giant
13	windmills known as "whirligigs" at his home in Wilson, North Carolina; and
14	Whereas, Mr. Simpson's whirligigs have been exhibited at the North Carolina
15	Museum of Art in Raleigh, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Visionary Art
16	Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, and at other locations, including New York, California,
17	Canada, and England; and
18	Whereas, Mr. Simpson and details of his artwork have been featured in many
19	national magazines and in several books; and
20	Whereas, the City of Wilson is developing the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park to
21	display a large collection of these whirligigs in historic downtown, which will be a
22	one-of-a-kind destination for visitors; and
23	Whereas, North Carolina's clay-rich soil has contributed to the State's pottery
24	heritage; and
25	Whereas, the use of clay has grown from the State's early Native Americans making
26	mostly utilitarian wares and European settlers continuing the traditions of their ancestors to
27	today's potters designing pottery with utilitarian and aesthetic elements; and
28	Whereas, the pottery tradition continues to thrive in North Carolina, especially in
29	the Seagrove area, which includes parts of Chatham, Lee, Moore, Montgomery, and Randolph
30	Counties; and
31	Whereas, clay continues to be an important art medium contributing to the State's
32	cultural, social, and economic prosperity; Now, therefore,
33	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
34	SECTION 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the
35	following new sections to read:
36	" <u>§ 145-41. State fossil.</u>
37	The fossilized teeth of the megalodon shark is adopted as the official fossil of the State of
38	North Carolina.
39	" <u>§ 145-42. State frog.</u>
40	The pine barrens tree frog (Hyla andersonii) is adopted as the official frog of the State of
41	North Carolina.
42	" <u>§ 145-43. State salamander.</u>
43	The marbled salamander (Ambystoma opacum) is adopted as the official salamander of the
44	State of North Carolina.
45	" <u>§ 145-44. State marsupial.</u>
46	The Virginia opossum (Didelphis virginiana) is adopted as the official marsupial of the
47	State of North Carolina.
48	" <u>§ 145-45. State folk art.</u> The which is a substant by Vallia Simman are adapted as the official falls art of the State of
49 50	The whirligigs created by Vollis Simpson are adopted as the official folk art of the State of North Caroline
50 51	North Carolina. "8 145-46 State art modium
51	" <u>§ 145-46. State art medium.</u>

General Assembly Of North Carolina

Session 2013

	General Assembly Of North Carolina	Session 2013
1	Clay is adopted as the official art medium of the State of North Carolina."	
2	<b>SECTION 2.</b> This act is effective when it becomes law.	