

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1640

5 By: Representatives D. Garner, D. Whitaker, Clowney, C. Fite
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE ALLIGATOR GAR AS THE OFFICIAL
9 GAME FISH OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
11
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Subtitle

13 TO DESIGNATE THE ALLIGATOR GAR AS THE
14 OFFICIAL GAME FISH OF THE STATE OF
15 ARKANSAS.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

22 The General Assembly finds:

23 (1) Arkansas is one (1) of only five (5) states that does not
24 designate an official state fish;

25 (2) The designation of an official state game fish provides
26 conservation and educational benefits, increases interest in Arkansas's rich
27 and diverse fauna, and promotes the important study of fisheries and
28 ichthyology;

29 (3) The alligator gar, Atractosteus spatula, is commonly
30 recognized by most citizens of the State of Arkansas for its razor-sharp
31 teeth and its stone-hard scales, which make it as tough as the Arkansas
32 Razorback;

33 (4) Alligator gar in Arkansas have been known to exceed eight
34 feet (8') in length and two hundred forty pounds (240 lbs.) in weight, by far
35 the largest fish in Arkansas;

36 (5) The alligator gar has for centuries been one (1) of



1 Arkansas's most remarkable resident creatures, with its scales used by Native
 2 Americans for arrowheads and its striking features likely noted by Spanish
 3 explorer Hernando De Soto, who described eating a fish "the size of a hog,
 4 with rows of teeth above and below" in his exploration in the 1500s of what
 5 later became the State of Arkansas; and

6 (6) While acknowledging the known diversity of fishes
 7 represented in Arkansas's lakes and rivers, the General Assembly concludes
 8 that the alligator gar shall represent the State of Arkansas as the official
 9 game fish of the State of Arkansas.

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 11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, is amended
 12 to add an additional section to read as follows:

13 1-4-134. State game fish.

14 (a) The alligator gar is designated the official game fish of the
 15 State of Arkansas.

16 (b)(1) This section does not require a state agency or office to
 17 republish a publication or brochure in order to list or display the alligator
 18 gar.

19 (2) A state agency or office may include the information
 20 concerning the state game fish in future publications or brochures or in a
 21 scheduled update to a publication or brochure.

22 (c) This section does not grant a protected status to the alligator
 23 gar.

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