

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

As Engrossed: S3/13/19

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1640

5 By: Representatives D. Garner, D. Whitaker, Clowney, C. Fite
6 By: Senator B. Ballinger
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE ALLIGATOR GAR AS THE OFFICIAL
10 PRIMITIVE FISH OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO DESIGNATE THE ALLIGATOR GAR AS THE
16 OFFICIAL PRIMITIVE FISH OF THE STATE OF
17 ARKANSAS.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

23 The General Assembly finds:

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

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

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

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



