1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: \$3/13/19	
2	92nd General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2019		HOUSE BILL 1640
4			
5	By: Representatives D. Garner,	, D. Whitaker, Clowney, C. Fite	
6	By: Senator B. Ballinger		
7			
8	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 PURPC	JSES.	
12			
13		Subtitle	
14		SUBLICE SIGNATE THE ALLIGATOR GAR AS THE	
15 16		IAL PRIMITIVE FISH OF THE STATE (	∩ <i>₽</i>
10	ARKAN		
18	AMAN		
19			
20	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GE	ENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF A	RKANSAS:
21			
22	SECTION 1. DO NO	DT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.	
23	The General Assem	nbly finds:	
24	<u>(1)</u> Arkans	sas is one (1) of only five (5) s	tates that does not
25	<u>designate an official s</u>	state fish;	
26	<u>(2)</u> The de	esignation of an official state p	<u>primitive fish provides</u>
27	conservation and educat	tional benefits, increases intere	st in Arkansas's rich
28	and diverse fauna, and	promotes the important study of	fisheries and
29	<u>ichthyology;</u>		
30	<u>(3)</u> The al	lligator gar, Atractosteus spatul	a, is commonly
31	recognized by most citi	izens of the State of Arkansas fo	<u>r its razor-sharp</u>
32	teeth and its stone-har	rd scales, which make it as tough	as the Arkansas
33	<u>Razorback;</u>		
34	<u>(4) Alliga</u>	ator gar in Arkansas have been kn	own to exceed eight.
35	feet (8') in length and two hundred forty pounds (240 lbs.) in weight, by far		
36	<u>the largest fish in Arkansas;</u>		



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1	(5) The alligator gar has for centuries been one (1) of		
2	Arkansas's most remarkable resident creatures, with its scales used by Native		
3	Americans for arrowheads and its striking features likely noted by Spanish		
4	explorer Hernando De Soto, who described eating a fish "the size of a hog,		
5	with rows of teeth above and below" in his exploration in the 1500s of what		
6	later became the State of Arkansas; and		
7	(6) While acknowledging the known diversity of fishes		
8	represented in Arkansas's lakes and rivers, the General Assembly concludes		
9	that the alligator gar shall represent the State of Arkansas as the official		
10	primitive fish of the State of Arkansas.		
11			
12	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, is amended		
13	to add an additional section to read as follows:		
14	1-4-134. State primitive fish.		
15	(a) The alligator gar is designated the official primitive fish of the		
16	<u>State of Arkansas.</u>		
17	(b)(1) This section does not require a state agency or office to		
18	republish a publication or brochure in order to list or display the alligator		
19	gar.		
20	(2) A state agency or office may include the information		
21	concerning the state primitive fish in future publications or brochures or in		
22	a scheduled update to a publication or brochure.		
23	(c) This section does not grant a protected status to the alligator		
24	gar.		
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27	/s/D. Garner		
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