

Date of Hearing: May 3, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Adam Gray, Chair

AB 1067 (Gray) – As Amended March 21, 2017

SUBJECT: State nut: almond

SUMMARY: Designates the Almond as the official state nut and makes various finding and declarations.

EXISTING LAW:

1) Designates the following as official state insignia:

- a) State Flower – "*Golden Poppy*" (Added by Chapter 69, Statutes of 1903)
- b) State Bird – "*California Valley Quail*" (Added by Chapter 777, Statutes of 1931)
- c) State Tree – "*California Redwood*" includes both the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and the Sierra big tree (*Sequoia gigantea*) – (Added by Chapter 134, Statutes of 1943; Amended by Chapter 1140, Statutes of 1953)
- d) State Theatre – "*Pasadena Playhouse*" (Added by Resolution Chapter 45, Statutes of 1937)
- e) State Fish – "*California Golden Trout*" (Added by Resolution Chapter 90, Statutes of 1947)
- f) State Song – "*I Love You California*" (Added by Resolution Chapter 87, Statutes of 1951)
- g) State Animal – "*California Grizzly*" (Added by Chapter 1140, Statutes of 1953)
- h) State Motto – "*Eureka*" (Added by Chapter 1237, Statutes of 1963)
- i) State Rock – "*Serpentine*" (Added by Chapter 89, Statutes of 1965)
- j) State Mineral – "*Native Gold*" (Added by Chapter 89, Statutes of 1965)
- k) State Nickname – "*Golden State*" (Added by Chapter 66, Statutes of 1968)
- l) State Reptile – "*Desert Tortoise*" (Added by Chapter 683, Statutes of 1972)
- m) State Insect – "*California Dogface Butterfly*" (Added by Chapter 521, Statutes of 1972)
- n) State Fossil – "*Sabre-Tooth Cat*" (Added by Chapter 792, Statutes of 1973)
- o) State Historical Society – "*California Historical Society*" (Added by Chapter 52, Statutes of 1979)
- p) State Marine Mammal – "*California Gray Whale*" (Added by Chapter 328, Statutes of 1975)

- q) State Gemstone – "*Benitoite*" (Added by Chapter 1365, Statutes of 1985)
- r) State Folk Dance – "*Square Dance*" (Added by Chapter 1645, Statutes of 1988)
- s) State Dance – "*West Coast Swing*" (Added by Chapter 1645, Statutes of 1988)
- t) State Prehistoric Artifact – "*Chipped Stone Bear*" (Added by Chapter 73, Statutes of 1991)
- u) State Marine Fish – "*Garibaldi*" (Added by Chapter 948, Statutes of 1995)
- v) State Soil – "*San Joaquin Soil*" (Added by Chapter 331, Statutes of 1997)
- w) State Fife and Drum Band – "*California Consolidated Drum Band*" (Added by Chapter 58, Statutes of 1997)
- x) State Tartan – "*Based on the family tartan of the revered John Muir*" (blue and green with red, gold, and blue seams) (Added by Chapter 100, Statutes of 2001)
- y) State Gold Rush Ghost Town – "*Town of Bodie*" (Added by Chapter 365, Statutes of 2002)
- z) State Tall Ship – "*Californian*" (Added by Chapter 113, Statutes of 2003)
- aa) State Grass – "*Nassella Pulchra*" – commonly referred to as "purple needlegrass" (Added by Chapter 243, Statutes of 2004)
- bb) State Silver Rush Ghost Town – "*Calico*" (Added by Chapter 90, Statutes of 2005)
- cc) Official Marine Reptile – "*Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle*" (Added by Chapter 591, Statutes of 2012)
- dd) State Amphibian – "*California Red-Legged Frog*" (Added by Chapter 77, Statutes of 2014)
- ee) State Pet – "*Shelter Pet*" (Added by Resolution Chapter 184, Statutes of 2015)
- ff) State Lichen – "*Lace Lichen*" (Added by Chapter 113, Statutes of 2015)
- gg) State fabric – "Denim" (Added by Chapter 873, Statutes of 2016)

FISCAL EFFECT: Keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Purpose of the Bill: According to the author: "The State of California boasts a richly diverse cultural heritage, and through the years it has adopted a number of tangible representations of that heritage as official symbols. AB 1067 designates the almond as the State Nut, symbolizing the almond's immense historical, cultural, and economic impact on California."

California's almond industry is relevant around the world. Almonds are the state's number one agricultural and specialty crop export; Almonds far outdistance both the number two (dairy) and number three (wine) exports combined; 67 percent of the California almond crop is shipped to 90 countries worldwide. In fact, eight of every ten almonds eaten in the world come from California.

Almond production has created over 100,000 jobs statewide, 97,000 of which are in the Central Valley, a region that has traditionally been saddled with high unemployment. The economic benefits almonds have generated for the California economy and its workforce are incredibly significant and deserving of this special recognition.”

Summary of Findings: The Almond is one of California's earliest agricultural crops, having been first planted more than 250 years ago.

Eight out of every 10 almonds eaten in the world are grown in California and are currently the most planted crop in the state due to an international boom in demand. Almonds are the state's number one agricultural and specialty crop export. Almond exports outnumber the second and third highest exports in the state, dairy and wine, combined. Sixty-seven percent of the California almond crop is shipped to 90 countries worldwide.

Since 1995, farmers in the state have doubled the amount of agricultural land devoted to almonds to 900,000 acres. Almonds are a \$4 billion dollar industry, with 2.1 billion pounds of almonds produced in 2016. The industry has created over 100,000 jobs statewide, 97,000 of which are in the central valley, a region that has traditionally been saddled with high unemployment.

Almonds have a rich and storied history in many faiths, including in Greek mythology, Judeo-Christian belief, and Christianity.

Executive Proclamation: On April 9, 2013, Acting Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation declaring the avocado as the state fruit, the almond as the state nut, the artichoke as the state vegetable, and rice as the state grain. AB 1067 would codify the almond as the state nut into law.

Prior/Related Legislation: AB 501 (Levine), Chapter 873, Statutes of 2016. Designated “Denim” as the official State Fabric.

AB 1528 (Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife), Chapter 113, Statutes of 2015 Among other things, declared "Lace Lichen" (*Ramalina menziesii*) the official State Lichen.

ACR 56 (Linder), Resolution Chapter 184, Statutes of 2015. Declared a "shelter pet" as the official State Pet.

AB 2364 (V. Manuel Pérez), Chapter 77, Statutes of 2014. Designated the "California Red-Legged Frog" (*Rana draytonii*) as the official State Amphibian.

AB 1776 (Fong), Chapter 591, Statutes of 2012. Designated the Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle as the official marine reptile of the State of California and established October 15 as Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation Day.

SB 906 (Ashburn), Chapter 90, Statutes of 2005. Designated "Calico" in San Bernardino County as the official State Silver Rush Ghost Town.

SB 1226 (Machado), Chapter 243, Statutes of 2004. Designated "purple needlegrass," or *Nassella Pulchra*, as the official State Grass.

AB 965 (Kehoe), Chapter 113, Statutes of 2003. Established the "Californian" as the official State Tall Ship.

AB 1757 (Leslie), Chapter 365, Statutes of 2002. Designated "Bodie" as the official State Gold Rush Ghost Town.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

4th Grade GATE Class, Margaret Sheehy Elementary, Merced, CA

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Kenton Stanhope / G.O. / (916) 319-2531