

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** CS/CS/HB 131 State Symbols

**SPONSOR(S):** Government Efficiency & Accountability Council, Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council, Attkisson and others

**TIED BILLS:** **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 230

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REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Committee on Tourism &amp; Trade</u>	<u>6 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>McGill</u>	<u>Hoagland</u>
2) <u>Economic Expansion &amp; Infrastructure Council</u>	<u>14 Y, 0 N, As CS</u>	<u>McGill</u>	<u>Tinker</u>
3) <u>Government Efficiency &amp; Accountability Council</u>	<u>15 Y, 0 N, As CS</u>	<u>Shaffer</u>	<u>Cooper</u>
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

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### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/CS/HB 131 designates the Florida Cracker Horse (Marshackie) as the official state horse. Current law provides 35 state designations (i.e., animal, beverage, shell, stone, butterfly, etc.); however, Florida does not have a designated state horse. A repeal date of July 1, 2018 is provided, unless reviewed and reenacted by the legislature before that date.

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.



## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

This bill does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### Current Situation

Chapter 15, F.S., designates 35 official state symbols including an official state animal, butterfly and reptile<sup>1</sup>. Chapter 15 does not contain a designation for an official state horse.

##### *Cracker Horse*

The Florida Cracker Horse's history in Florida can be traced back to the 1500s when its ancestors were left behind in Florida by Spanish explorers making room on their ships for treasure collected during their explorations. The explorers brought horses derived from the Iberian Horse of Sixteenth Century Spain. The horses carried the genes of the North African Barb, Spanish Sorraia, and Spanish Jennet (gaited).<sup>2</sup>

The horses spread throughout the region and developed into the modern breed of the Florida Cracker Horse. By the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries cattle ranching had become big business in Florida, and the horse was a popular choice among farmers and cattlemen. The Cracker Horse gained its name from the fact that the Florida cattlemen who used the horse were called "Cracker" after the sound their whips made.<sup>3</sup>

The Cracker Horse population became endangered in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as a result of changes to the method of raising cattle in Florida during the Great Depression and the introduction of the Quarter Horse to accommodate the new methods. In the 1930s, John Law Ayers, a prominent rancher and state politician ordered his Cracker Horses rounded up to protect them from the tick fever raging through Florida at the time; along with his efforts and the efforts of other families the Cracker Horse survived.<sup>4</sup>

Only a few families continued to raise the Cracker Horses. The names of these families now represent the lineages of the Cracker Horses: Ayers, Harvey, Bronson, Matchett, Partin, and Whaley.<sup>5</sup> There are currently 824 registered Cracker Horses in the state.<sup>6</sup>

"Florida Cracker Horses are small saddle horses, standing from 13.5 hands to 15.2 at the withers<sup>7</sup> and weighing 700 - 1000 pounds...Colors are any of those known to the horse; however, solid colors and

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<sup>1</sup> These are: the state flag, seal, motto, tree, fruit, beverage, citrus archive, shell, stone, gem, wildflower, play, animal, freshwater fish, saltwater fish, marine mammal, saltwater mammal, butterfly, reptile, air fair, rodeo, festival, moving image center and archive, litter control symbol, pageant, opera program, renaissance festival, railroad museums, transportation museum, soil, fiddle contest, band, Sports Hall of Fame, pie, and maritime museum.

<sup>2</sup> <http://floridacrackerhorses.com/history.htm>. Accessed on April 22, 2008

<sup>3</sup> <http://floridacrackerhorses.com/history.htm>. Accessed on April 22, 2008

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ecmagazine.net/spring07/floridacrackerhorse.htm>. Accessed on April 22, 2008

<sup>5</sup> <http://floridacrackerhorses.com/history.htm>. Accessed on April 22, 2008

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ecmagazine.net/spring07/floridacrackerhorse.htm>. Accessed on April 22, 2008

<sup>7</sup> Withers – the ridge between the shoulder bones of a horse. Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. 2001.

grays are most common.”<sup>8</sup> The hooves are tough and handle marshy areas well; because of this the breed is known as a Marshtackie in the Carolinas<sup>9</sup>.

### Proposed Changes

The bill designates the Florida Cracker Horse (Marshtackie) as the official state horse. A repeal date of July 1, 2018 is provided for the designation, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature before that date.

#### C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 15.0526, F.S., designating the Florida Cracker Horse (Marshtackie) as the official state horse and provides a repeal date of July 1, 2018.

Section 2. Provides the bill will take effect July 1, 2008.

## **II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

#### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

##### 1. Revenues:

This bill does not create, modify, amend, or eliminate a state revenue source.

##### 2. Expenditures:

This bill does not create, modify, amend, or eliminate state expenditures.

#### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

##### 1. Revenues:

This bill does not create, modify, amend, or eliminate a local revenue source.

##### 2. Expenditures:

This bill does not create, modify, amend, or eliminate a local expenditure.

#### C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

#### D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://floridacrackerhorses.com/breed.htm>. Accessed on April 22, 2008

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.ecmagazine.net/spring07/floridacrackerhorse.htm>. Accessed on April 22, 2008

### III. COMMENTS

#### A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

##### 1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenue.

##### 2. Other:

None.

##### 3. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

##### 4. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

##### 5. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

None.

### IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On April 18, 2008, the Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council adopted an amendment that **added** the following designations:

- The Brown Pelican, as the official state coastal/aquatic bird;
- The Loggerhead Turtle as the official state water reptile;
- The Gopher Frog as the official state amphibian.

On April 22, 2008, the Government Efficiency & Accountability Council adopted an amendment which **removed** the following designations from the bill:

- The Brown Pelican, as the official state coastal/aquatic bird;
- The Loggerhead Turtle as the official state water reptile;
- The Gopher Frog as the official state amphibian.

The Council reported the bill out favorably as a Council Substitute.