

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

BILL: SB 502

INTRODUCER: Oelrich

SUBJECT: State Symbols

DATE: March 31, 2011 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Wiggins</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>EP</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Mason</u>	<u>Roberts</u>	<u>GO</u>	Favorable
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill designates the Barking Tree Frog as the official state amphibian.

The bill creates section 15.03865 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, no amphibian is designated as the official state amphibian.

Chapter 15, F.S., designates official state emblems. To date, there are designations for a state tree, fruit, beverage, citrus archive, anthem, song, shell, stone, gem, wildflower, play, animal, freshwater fish, saltwater fish, marine mammal, saltwater mammal, butterfly, reptile, saltwater reptile, tortoise, 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, maritime museum, and horse.

The Barking Tree Frog is one of the largest frogs found in the United States and is found primarily in Florida.¹ Because of their specially developed foot pads, Barking Tree Frogs spend the majority of their time climbing trees and the walls of aquariums, but they can also be found burrowing under tree roots.² The color of the Barking Tree Frog varies greatly: from lime green

¹ Barking Tree Frog Stats & Facts, <http://animal.discovery.com/guides/reptiles/frogs/barkingtreefrog.html> (last visited March 31, 2011).

² *Id.*

to brown with some yellow and gold coloring on its throat, belly, and inside its hind legs.³ The Barking Tree Frog gets its name from the low-pitch noise it makes during the rainy season, which sounds similar to a dog's bark, or even a honking goose.⁴ This sound is only made by the males in the species.⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates section 15.03865, of the Florida Statutes, to designate the Barking Tree Frog as the official state amphibian.

Section 2 provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of State maintains a list on its website of all official state symbols.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* To hear the Barking Tree Frog, please visit: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4vdf3B3_bY&feature=related.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
