

**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.)

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

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BILL: SB 556

INTRODUCER: Senator Montford

SUBJECT: State Symbols

DATE: March 9, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Peacock	McVaney	GO	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			CM	
3.			RC	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 556 designates Tupelo honey as the official state honey.

**II. Present Situation:**

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

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, renaissance festival, railroad museums, transportation museum, flagship, soil, fiddle contest, band, sports hall of fame, pie, maritime museum, and horse.

Tupelo honey is produced from the Ogeechee Tupelo (*Nyssa ogeche*) tree. The Ogeechee Tupelo is known as “an important honey tree” and is located along rivers, swamps and ponds of the Coastal Plain that are frequently flooded.<sup>1</sup> The Ogeechee Tupelo is also known as the White Tupelo and ranges from the Ogeechee River of Georgia to the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee River basins of northwest Florida.<sup>2</sup> The White Tupelo has a short blossoming season in April and May.<sup>3</sup> Tupelo honey will not granulate, and some doctors recommend this honey to diabetic patients due to its high laevulose content.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See U.S. Forest Service website located at [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics\\_manual/volume\\_2/nyssa/ogeche.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_2/nyssa/ogeche.htm).

<sup>2</sup> See Tupelo Beekeepers Association website located at <http://www.tupelobeekeepers.com/>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** creates s. 15.0521, F.S., to designate Tupelo honey as the official honey of Florida.

**Section 2** provides that this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

**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:**

Indeterminate.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 15.0521 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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

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