

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 Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

BILL: SB 606

INTRODUCER: Senator Margolis

SUBJECT: State Symbols

DATE: January 15, 2016

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Peacock	McVaney	GO	Favorable
2.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 606 designates the Big Orange as the official state symbol of New Year's Eve celebration in Florida.

The bill becomes effective upon becoming law.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, there is no designated official state symbol of New Year's Eve celebrations.

Chapter 15, F.S., designates official state emblems. To date, there are designations for a state motto, tree, fruit,¹ beverage,² 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, flagship, soil, fiddle contest, band, sports hall of fame, pie, maritime museum, and horse.

New Year's Eve Celebrations

New Year's Eve is celebrated around the United States by many cities dropping certain objects. New York City is known for its famous ball drop. Other cities celebrate by dropping a great sardine and maple leaf (Eastport, ME), giant shoe (Key West, FL), peach (Atlanta, GA), cherry (Traverse City, MI), giant letter "D"(Detroit, MI), fleur-de-lis (New Orleans, LA), and a music note (Nashville, TN).³

¹ Section 15.0315, F.S., designates the orange as the official fruit of Florida.

² Section 15.032, F.S., designates orange juice as the official beverage of Florida.

³ See <http://www.fly.com/blog/travel-blog/new-years-eve-celebration-whos-dropping/> (last visited on December 4, 2015).

The Big Orange

The Greater Miami Host Committee, Inc. began the Big Orange New Year's Eve Celebration 30 years ago.⁴ The Big Orange is a neon orange sign 35 feet in diameter that rises 400 feet to the top of the Hotel InterContinental on New Year's Eve.⁵ The Big Orange reaches the top of the hotel at midnight amid a fireworks display.⁶ The Big Orange has also been dubbed as "Mr. Neon" as the glowing fruit received a makeover in 2011.⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates s. 15.053, F.S., to designate the Big Orange as the official state symbol of New Year's Eve celebration in Florida.

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

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The mandate restrictions do not apply because the bill does not require counties and municipalities to spend funds, reduce counties' or municipalities' ability to raise revenue, or reduce the percentage of state tax shares with counties and municipalities.

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.

⁴ See <http://www.greatermiamihost.com/> (last visited on December 4, 2015).

⁵ See <http://www.wpbfl.com/news/south-florida/Big-Orange-celebration-in-Miami-renamed-La-Gran-Naranja/17956660> (last visited on December 4, 2015).

⁶ See <http://www.miamiscapes.com/new-years-eve-miami.html#.VmddnU3ov5o> (last visited on December 4, 2015).

⁷ See http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/30/the-big-orange-la-gran-na_n_2384121.html (last visited on December 4, 2015).

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 15.053 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.