

By the Committee on Agriculture; and Senator Burgess

575-01996-22

20221006c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to state symbols; creating s. 15.0522,  
3           F.S.; designating strawberry shortcake as the official  
4           state dessert; providing an effective date.

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6           WHEREAS, more than 10,000 acres of strawberries are planted  
7           annually in the greater Plant City area, accounting for 75  
8           percent of the United States' winter strawberry crop, and

9           WHEREAS, beginning in the spring of 1930, and again in 1948  
10          after a 6-year hiatus during and following World War II, the  
11          Florida Strawberry Festival, held in Plant City and organized by  
12          the Plant City Lions Club, was revived by American Legion Post  
13          #26, and other area civic organizations, and

14          WHEREAS, each year, the Florida Strawberry Festival  
15          welcomes visitors from around the world to celebrate this slice  
16          of Americana and the area's bountiful harvests, and

17          WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 strawberry shortcakes, the  
18          festival's signature dessert, are served each year at the  
19          Florida Strawberry Festival, making it a staple among festival  
20          attendees, and

21          WHEREAS, strawberry shortcake is a dessert consisting of a  
22          base of shortcake, which resembles a biscuit with a touch of  
23          cake, a layer of sweet, sliced strawberries, and a healthy  
24          dollop of whipped cream, and

25          WHEREAS, in 2000, *Guinness World Records* recognized Plant  
26          City as home of the biggest shortcake in the world, NOW,  
27          THEREFORE,

28  
29          Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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31           Section 1. Section 15.0522, Florida Statutes, is created to  
32 read:

33           15.0522 Official state dessert.—Strawberry shortcake is  
34 designated as the official Florida state dessert.

35           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.