

20221006e1

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 with
34 natural Florida dairy topping is designated as the official
35 Florida state dessert.

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