

By Senator Polsky

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the official state bird; requiring  
3       the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to  
4       develop and conduct a certain survey; requiring the  
5       commission to provide the survey and certain website  
6       information to specified persons during a specified  
7       timeframe; requiring that the survey include specified  
8       bird species; requiring the commission to submit the  
9       results of the survey to the Legislature by a  
10      specified date; providing an effective date.

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12       WHEREAS, in 1927, the Florida Legislature designated the  
13      northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) as the official state  
14      bird, and

15       WHEREAS, dating back to the 1998 Regular Session, the  
16      Legislature has, on a number of occasions, reviewed and  
17      considered legislation to replace the northern mockingbird as  
18      the official state bird, and

19       WHEREAS, Florida is one of five states that has designated  
20      the northern mockingbird as the official state bird, and

21       WHEREAS, in 2008, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
22      Commission held a vote among 78,000 Florida schoolchildren which  
23      coincided with the general election, and the schoolchildren  
24      voted to recommend the American osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*  
25      *carolinensis*) as Florida's new official state bird, and

26       WHEREAS, the time has come to allow the next generation of  
27      Floridians to make their voices heard and to have the  
28      participants in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's  
29      Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network summer camps hold a

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30 vote on the official state bird, with the possibility of a new  
31 bird species being presented to the Legislature for  
32 consideration as the official state bird, NOW, THEREFORE,  
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34 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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36 Section 1. (1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
37 Commission shall develop and conduct a survey of this state's  
38 youth to determine whether the state should select another bird  
39 species as the official state bird.

40 (2) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall  
41 provide the survey to the participants in the Florida Youth  
42 Conservation Centers Network summer camps during the summers of  
43 2025 and 2026. The survey must include the northern mockingbird,  
44 American osprey, Florida scrub jay, American flamingo, and  
45 American white ibis as selections. In addition to the survey,  
46 the commission shall provide the participants the information  
47 available on the commission's publicly available website related  
48 to such birds.

49 (3) No later than December 31, 2026, the commission shall  
50 submit the results of the survey to the President of the Senate  
51 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

52 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.