

By Senator Polsky

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the official state bird; requiring the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop and conduct a certain survey; requiring the commission to provide the survey and certain website information to specified persons during a specified timeframe; requiring that the survey include specified bird species; requiring the commission to submit the results of the survey to the Legislature by a specified date; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the time has come to allow the next generation of Floridians to make their voices heard and to have the participants in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's 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 2026 and 2027. 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 with the
47 information available on the commission's publicly available
48 website related to such birds.

49 (3) No later than December 31, 2027, 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.