

ASSEMBLY, No. 2834

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY
District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Designates blueberry muffin as State Muffin.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** designating the blueberry muffin as the New Jersey State
2 Muffin.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The blueberry muffin is a delicious snack that is rich in
5 flavor and enjoyed by residents throughout the State of New Jersey
6 and the United States; and

7 **WHEREAS**, The blueberry muffin is incredibly versatile, able to serve
8 as part of a healthy breakfast or as a sweet and decadent dessert;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, Blueberries taste good, are high in fiber, vitamin C, and
11 antioxidants, are sodium and cholesterol-free, are low in calories,
12 and may provide medical and health benefits, including helping to
13 prevent cancer and heart disease; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The key to creating a delicious and flavorful blueberry
15 muffin is using fresh blueberries grown in the fertile and acidic
16 soils of New Jersey; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Our State has a rich and long-standing association with the
18 blueberry which, due to its mouthwatering taste, its many
19 nutritional and health benefits, and its indisputable economic
20 importance, was designated as the official State Fruit in 2003; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The highbush blueberry is indigenous to New Jersey,
22 where it was first cultivated for commercial production by
23 Elizabeth White and Frederick Coville, who in the early 1900's
24 dedicated themselves to the study, domestication, and breeding of
25 blueberries at Whitesbog, in Browns Mills, New Jersey; and

26 **WHEREAS**, In 1916, White and Coville harvested and sold the first
27 commercial crop of highbush blueberries, and soon thereafter
28 blueberry fever swept the country; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Today, New Jersey is consistently among the top-five
30 producers of blueberries in the nation, producing approximately 50
31 million pounds of blueberries worth an estimated \$70 million
32 annually; and

33 **WHEREAS**, In the heart of southern New Jersey, Hammonton, in
34 Atlantic County, is widely recognized as the "Blueberry Capital of
35 the World"; and

36 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for the State of New
37 Jersey to officially acknowledge the importance and delightful taste
38 of the blueberry muffin; now, therefore,

39
40 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
41 *of New Jersey:*

42
43 1. The blueberry muffin is designated as the New Jersey State
44 Muffin.

45
46 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill designates the blueberry muffin as the New Jersey State Muffin.

New Jersey is the home of the commercial blueberry, which was first domesticated in Browns Mills in the early 20th century by Elizabeth White and Frederick Coville. White and Coville accomplished this by selectively breeding the native highbush blueberry over the course of many years. Blueberries now make up a significant proportion of New Jersey's agricultural economy and New Jersey is consistently among the top-five producers of blueberries in the nation, producing approximately 50 million pounds of blueberries worth an estimated \$70 million annually.

Blueberries taste good, are high in fiber, vitamin C, and antioxidants, are sodium and cholesterol-free, are low in calories, and may provide medical and health benefits, including helping to prevent cancer and heart disease. Blueberry muffins are able to highlight both the healthfulness and the great taste of the blueberry, since they can be enjoyed as a high fiber breakfast food, or as a sweet dessert.

It is therefore proper and fitting for the State of New Jersey to recognize the significance of the blueberry to the State and the delightful taste of the blueberry muffin by designating the blueberry muffin as the New Jersey State Muffin.