

SENATE, No. 3125

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

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 as
8 part of a healthy breakfast or as a sweet and decadent dessert; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41
42 1. The blueberry muffin is designated as the New Jersey State
43 Muffin.

44
45 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.