

Senate Election Law and Internal Affairs Committee

Kelly Flathers 271-3093

HB 262, establishing the blackberry as the state berry.

Hearing Date: March 21, 2017

Time Opened: 11:00 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:10 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Birdsell, Gray, Sanborn, Soucy and Woodburn

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes the common blackberry as the state berry.

Sponsors:

Rep. Carson
Rep. D. Wolf
Sen. Giuda

Rep. Wells
Sen. Feltes

Rep. Ebel
Sen. Ward

Who supports the bill: Nancy Marashio; Sen. Ruth Ward - District 8; Rep. Clyde Carson - Merrimack 7; Rep. Timothy Horgan - Strafford 6; Mary Frances Reid; Owen Blood; Darren Blood; A. Blood; Mary Halton; Rob Joynt; Sen. Bob Giuda - District 2; Scott Reid; Marion Reid; Rep. Diane Schuett - Merrimack 20

Who opposes the bill: Darryl Perry - Liberty Lobby LLC; Will Anderson - Concord/Self; David Crawford - Keene, NH; Ian Freeman - NH Liberty Party

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Rep. Clyde Carson – Merrimack 7

- This bill came about as part of a project at the Simonds Elementary School in Warner.
- The school district encompasses seven towns. There are three State Senators and seven State Representatives representing this area.
- The 4th grade class was studying state symbols and saw that our neighbors to the north and south have a state berry, but we do not. This bill aims to fix that.

Sen. Bob Guida – District 2

- I am speaking in support of this bill.

- This bill presents the legislature with a juicy opportunity to pass legislation that demonstrates to our young people that they have the power to participate in the legislative process.

Owen Blood & Mary Frances Reid – Students at Simonds Elementary School

- New Hampshire's native blackberry is a member of the rose family and is found in every county in NH.
- The blackberry is a staple food of many birds and animals.
- Native Americans and colonists used the blackberry as food and for hunting and fishing, medicine, dye, and paint.
- The vines made snares, fishing lines, and hooks, and berries were used as bait. Leaves made hair dye and berries were used for dyeing yarn.
- Scientists have discovered that blackberries promote heart health and improve the immune system.
- 5th grade students in Massachusetts succeeded in making the cranberry the official berry for their state.
- For over a quarter century, the blackberry has been the state berry of Maine.
- NH students succeeded in making the lady beetle our state insect and the white potato the state vegetable.

Sen. Soucy

- (Q) What grade are you in?
 - (A) **Owen Blood & Mary Frances Reid:** 4th grade.

Sen. Sanborn

- (Q) Why not the raspberry?
 - (A) **Owen Blood:** Because blackberries are found in every county in New Hampshire.
 - (A) **Mary Frances Reid:** Because raspberries are not historically significant to New Hampshire.

Rep. Timothy Horgan – Strafford 6

- I am speaking in support of this bill.
- The blackberry grows wild without any government intervention; it's a good symbol for the state.
- I'm glad this bill is going better than the state raptor bill from a few years ago.

Rep. Dianne Schuett – Merrimack 20

- I am speaking in support of this bill.
- The House ED&A committee voted Ought to Pass 12-1 and it passed the House on the consent calendar.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

Future Action: Ought to Pass with Amendment

KEF

Date Hearing Report completed: March 21, 2017