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Banana Slug or Abalone?

A lobbying slugfest

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT

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Assembly Bill 3007 of 1988

AB 3007 was introduced at the recommendation of the “Dynamite” Blue Birds of Redwood City, a troop of campfire girls from the author’s district (see pages 17 and 19). The Banana Slug was recommended due to its large size and brilliant yellow color. Controversy arose when the Banana Slugs hidden secret was revealed – many banana slugs are not true to California, in fact they sleep around, being often found in both Oregon and Washington. In addition devotees of less glamorous (?) mollusks truly indigenous to California lobbied for recognition of a species of abalone as the clearly less slimy and much more edible choice whose shells also made excellent ashtrays (see pages 6 through 8 for particularly pithy discussion of the virtues of abalone and the lack of virtue in banana slugs).

The struggle over the proper state mollusk eventually landed on the desk of Governor Deukmajian. Governor Deukmajian lacked appreciation for the banana slug’s charms, and, focusing on the banana slug’s tendency to hang out in other states, vetoed the bill. One cannot avoid speculating the Governor, being from Southern California, could not stomach the thought of a State Mollusk that was only found in Northern California. Particularly in view of the culinary delight of a well-cooked abalone contrasted with the vaguely repulsive notion of braised banana slug,

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of this legislation is that the legislature managed to treat the bill with a (largely) straight face.

This report begins with an excerpt from the Final History for 1988 regarding Assembly Bill 3007. Thereafter materials regarding AB 3007 follow in chronological order.

Find Authorities on using legislative documents, definitions of legislative terms, a brief summary of the legislative process and other information pertinent to legislative history and legislative intent at our web page

www.naj.net

VOLUME 2
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
AT SACRAMENTO
1987-88 REGULAR SESSION
1987-88 FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

ASSEMBLY FINAL HISTORY

SYNOPSIS OF
ASSEMBLY BILLS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, CONCURRENT,
JOINT, AND HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

Assembly Convened December 1, 1986
Recessed December 3, 1986
Recessed April 9, 1987
Recessed July 16, 1987
Recessed September 11, 1987
Recessed March 24, 1988
Recessed June 30, 1988
Reconvened January 5, 1987
Reconvened April 20, 1987
Reconvened August 17, 1987
Reconvened January 4, 1988
Reconvened April 4, 1988
Reconvened August 1, 1988
Adjourned September 1, 1988
Adjourned Sine Die November 30, 1988
Legislative Days..... 246

HON. WILLIE L. BROWN JR.
Speaker

HON. MIKE ROOS
Speaker pro Tempore

HON. PHILLIP ISENBERG
Assistant Speaker pro Tempore

HON. THOMAS HANNIGAN
Majority Floor Leader

HON. PAT NOLAN
Minority Floor Leader

Compiled Under the Direction of
R. BRIAN KIDNEY
Chief Clerk

GUNVOR ENGLE
History Clerk

A.B. No. 3007—Sher (Principal coauthor: Farr).

An act to add Section 425.8 to the Government Code, relating to the state mollusk.

1988

- Feb. 4—Read first time. To print.
- Feb. 5—From printer. May be heard in committee March 6.
- Feb. 12—Referred to Com. on G.O.
- Mar. 7—From committee chairman, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on G.O. Read second time and amended.
- Mar. 8—Re-referred to Com. on G.O. From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 11. Noes 4.) (March 8).
- Mar. 9—Read second time. To third reading.
- Mar. 17—Read third time, amended, and returned to third reading.
- Mar. 21—Read third time, passed, and to Senate. (Ayes 43. Noes 32. Page 6435.)
- Mar. 21—In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.
- Mar. 24—Referred to Com. on RLS.
- May 5—From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 3. Noes 1.).
- May 9—Read second time. To third reading.
- May 27—Read third time, passage refused. (Ayes 18. Noes 13. Page 6194.) Motion to reconsider made by Senator Morgan. Reconsideration granted. (Ayes 37. Noes 0. Page 6194.)
- June 30—To inactive file - Senate Rule 29.
- Aug. 4—From inactive file. To second reading.
- Aug. 5—Read second time. To third reading.
- Aug. 11—Read third time, passed, and to Assembly. (Ayes 21. Noes 15. Page 7381.)
- Aug. 15—In Assembly. To enrollment.
- Aug. 17—Enrolled and to the Governor at 11 a.m.
- Aug. 29—Vetoed by Governor.
- Aug. 29—Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

A.B. No. 3008—Floyd.

An act to amend Section 203.5 of the Labor Code, relating to wages.

1988

- Feb. 4—Read first time. To print.
- Feb. 5—From printer. May be heard in committee March 6.
- Feb. 12—Referred to Com. on L. & E.
- April 6—In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.
- April 14—From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on W. & M. Re-referred. (Ayes 6. Noes 4.) (April 13).
- May 4—From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 13. Noes 10.) (May 3).
- May 5—Read second time. To third reading.
- May 31—Read third time, passage refused. (Ayes 39. Noes 31. Page 7865.)

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3007

**Introduced by Assembly Member Sher
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Farr)**

February 4, 1988

An act to add Section 425.8 to the Government Code, relating to the state mollusk.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3007, as introduced, Sher. State Mollusk.

Existing law designates an official state flower, tree, reptile, bird, insect, animal, and marine mammal, but does not designate an official state mollusk.

This bill would designate the banana slug as the official state mollusk.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 425.8 is added to the
- 2 Government Code, to read:
- 3 425.8. The banana slug is the official State Mollusk.

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Date of Hearing: March 8, 1988

AB 3007

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
Richard E. Floyd, Chairman

AB 3007 (Sher) - As Proposed to Be Amended: March 8, 1988

SUBJECT

Should a slug be designated as State Mollusk?

DIGEST

Existing law designates a number of things as having exclusive official state status. These include: "Eureka" - State Motto; "The Golden State" - State Nickname; golden poppy (Eschscholtzia) - State Flower; California redwood (Sequoia sempervirens, Sequoia gigantea) - State Tree; California desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizi) - State Reptile; California valley quail (Lophortyx californica) - State Bird; gold and blue - State Colors; saber toothed cat (Smilodon californicus) - State Fossil; native gold - State Mineral; serpentine - State Rock; benitoite - State Gemstone; California gray whale (Eschrichtius robustus) as State Marine Mammal; California dog faced butterfly (Zerene eurydice) - State Insect; and the California grizzly bear (Ursus californicus) - State Animal.

This bill designates the banana slug as the official State Mollusk.

FISCAL EFFECT

None.

COMMENTS

1) Genesis

Naming the banana slug as State Mollusk was recommended to the author by a troop of Campfire Girls from his district. This particular slug, Ariolimax columbianus, is noteworthy because of its large size and brilliant yellow coloring. Found in damp coastal forest areas, the banana slug is indigenous to the Pacific Northwest. The banana slug is also the official school mascot of the University of California at Santa Cruz.

2) Mollusks

One of the largest groups of invertebrate animals, the phylum mollusk includes more than 100,000 different species worldwide. Octopi, squid, clams, oysters, abalone, limpets, shells, mussels, scallops, chitons, marine and land snails, and slugs are all subclasses of the mollusk

- continued -

AB 3007

classification. Land slugs, such as the banana slug, are gastropods, a class of mollusk which includes all other snails, limpets, shells, and abalones.

3) Appropriateness

While there is usually a certain amount of discretionary license present in the designation of official state status, the general rule for such choices appears to have been centered on accepted custom and the particular uniqueness of the named object to the environs of the state. In the case of mollusks, there are a large number of different species indigenous to locales in the state, including the pismo clam (Tivela stultorum), the black abalone (Haliotis cracherodii), red abalone (Haliotis refesens), the turban shell (Tegula montereyi), the two spotted octopus (Octopus bimaculatus), common squid (Loligo opalescens), and a mussel (Mytilus californianus).

4) Which Slug Is The Right Slug?

The species Ariolimax columbianus was first identified by A. A. Gould in 1851 near the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon. This particular banana slug has been found from Alaska to as far south as the Salinas Valley, and hence, cannot be considered indigenous to California. A subspecies, Ariolimax columbianus stramineus, however, is indigenous to central California and has been reported from Monterey to Ventura. Unfortunately, the only way a true California banana slug can be identified separately from other species is by dissecting the slug and mounting its ctenidia (respiratory organs) for examination.

Date of Hearing: March 8, 1988

AB 3007

SUPPORT

Campfire Girls of America

OPPOSITION

None registered

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
RELATIVE TO THE OFFICIAL STATE MOLLUSK

WHEREAS Abalone shells have been found in the oldest of California archeological sites, proving that the abalone was a staple part of the diets of the earliest Californians; and

WHEREAS California has an extensive abalone fishery which contributes significantly to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS Thousands of Californians every year engage in abalone diving as a recreational activity; and

WHEREAS California is a major exporter of abalone meat; and

WHEREAS Abalones have proven to be devoted conservationists -- many giving their lives to provide a food source for California's endangered sea otters; and

WHEREAS No Californian has ever been known to have been killed by an abalone -- not even by a very angry one; and

WHEREAS Abalone tastes excellent when tenderized with a wooden mallet and quickly deep fried in a batter made up of eggs, cracker crumbs, and beer; and

WHEREAS Banana slugs are yucky yellow creatures that hide out in the mountains and have never contributed anything to California more significant than a trail of slime; and

WHEREAS No Californian has ever been known to survive eating a meal of banana slug deep fried in beer batter;

Now, therefore, be it **RESOLVED**: That the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate concurring, declares the Abalone to be the Official Mollusk of the State of California.

**SUGGESTED PRESS RELEASE
STATE MOLLUSK RESOLUTION**

NEW CANDIDATE FOR STATE MOLLUSK

Assemblyman Trice Harvey (Rep., Bakersfield) announced today that he will introduce legislation to declare the abalone to be the Official State Mollusk of California. This proposal was in response to an effort to declare the banana slug to be the State Mollusk.

"It never occurred to me that we needed an Official State Mollusk," said Harvey, "but if we are going to have one it should be the right mollusk."

"Abalone makes a much better meal than does banana slug," Harvey noted. "And abalone shells make much better ashtrays than banana slug shells." When pressed Assemblyman Harvey admitted that banana slugs do not have shells.

"Banana slugs are slimy yellow worm-like creatures which live in the mountains eating innocent plants and leaves," Harvey explained. "Abalones are noble sea creatures which populate the coast providing food for people and animals."

Mollusks are animals, such as snails, that have no bones and travel on a single "foot muscle". Shellfish, such as clams and muscles, are also classified as mollusks.

**SUGGESTED REQUEST FOR COAUTHORS
STATE MOLLUSK RESOLUTION**

Dear Fellow Assembly Members:

I was amazed to learn, recently, that California has no Official State Mollusk. Not that I really thought we needed one; I was just surprised we didn't have one.

After all, we have an Official State Nickname, an Official State Reptile, an Official State Rock, an Official State Mineral, an Official State Gemstone, an Official State Fish, an Official State Insect, and an Official State Fossil. How did mollusks escape this honor?

An effort is afoot to change this situation. And, while I have all the respect in the world for those who serve as advocates for the banana slug, I must respectfully disagree with the proposal to name the banana slug as the Official State Mollusk.

I cannot stand idly by and watch the wrong mollusk being designated the Official State Mollusk. Although the banana slug is certainly qualified, as a mollusk, for this honor, the abalone is a far superior candidate.

This is why I am seeking your coauthorship of the attached Concurrent Resolution to designate the abalone as the Official State Mollusk. The abalone has the dignity, the pride, and the disposition for this honor. Abalone tastes good too.

This promises to be a difficult battle. Our opponents are well organized and devoted to their cause. But I am ready to slug it out with them and I hope that you will join me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 7, 1988

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1987-88 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3007

Introduced by Assembly Member Sher
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Farr)

February 4, 1988

An act to add Section 425.8 to the Government Code, relating to the state mollusk.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3007, as amended, Sher. State Mollusk.

Existing law designates an official state flower, tree, reptile, bird, insect, animal, and marine mammal, but does not designate an official state mollusk.

This bill would designate the banana slug as the official state mollusk *and would make specified legislative findings and declarations regarding that designation.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 425.8 is added to the
2 Government Code, to read:
3 425.8. (a) *The Legislature finds and declares as*
4 *follows:*
5 (1) *The banana slug (Ariolimax) is an indigenous*
6 *species to California.*
7 (2) *Banana slugs are rich yellow in color, closely*
8 *resembling the California state color, gold.*
9 (3) *Banana slugs live among one of California's state*
10 *trees, the coastal redwood.*

1 (4) *Banana slugs are an important link in the redwood*
2 *forest ecosystem because they feed on leaves, stems,*
3 *bulbs, tubers, other plant parts, and other organic matter,*
4 *helping speed the natural decomposition of forest wastes.*

5 (5) *Banana slugs are important to humans in that they*
6 *consume poison oak.*

7 (6) *The existence of banana slugs is a measure of a*
8 *redwood forest's vitality, making the banana slug an*
9 *important indicator species.*

10 (7) *The banana slug has long served as an educational*
11 *species for all Californians, adults and children alike,*
12 *helping them toward a better understanding of their*
13 *environment.*

14 (b) *The banana slug (Ariolimax) is the official State*
15 *Mollusk.*

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 1988

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 7, 1988

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1987-88 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3007

**Introduced by Assembly Member Sher
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Farr)**

February 4, 1988

An act to add Section 425.8 to the Government Code, relating to the state mollusk.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3007, as amended, Sher. State Mollusk.

Existing law designates an official state flower, tree, reptile, bird, insect, animal, and marine mammal, but does not designate an official state mollusk.

This bill would designate the banana slug as the official state mollusk and would make specified legislative findings and declarations regarding that designation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. ~~Section 425.8 is added to the~~
2 ~~Government Code, to read:~~

3 ~~425.8. (a)~~ The Legislature finds and declares as
4 follows:

5 ~~(1)~~

6 (a) The banana slug (*Ariolimax*) is an indigenous
7 species to California.

8 ~~(2)~~

9 (b) Banana slugs are rich yellow in color, closely

1 resembling the California state color, gold.

2 ~~(3)~~

3 (c) Banana slugs live among one of California's state
4 trees, the coastal redwood.

5 ~~(4)~~

6 (d) Banana slugs are an important link in the redwood
7 forest ecosystem because they feed on leaves, stems,
8 bulbs, tubers, other plant parts, and other organic matter,
9 helping speed the natural decomposition of forest wastes.

10 ~~(5)~~

11 (e) Banana slugs are important to humans in that they
12 consume poison oak.

13 ~~(6)~~

14 (f) The existence of banana slugs is a measure of a
15 redwood forest's vitality, making the banana slug an
16 important indicator species.

17 ~~(7)~~

18 (g) The banana slug has long served as an educational
19 species for all Californians, adults and children alike,
20 helping them toward a better understanding of their
21 environment.

22 ~~(b)~~

23 *SEC. 2. Section 425.8 is added to the Government*
24 *Code, to read:*

25 425.8. The banana slug (*Ariolimax*) is the official State
26 Mollusk.

O

THIRD READING

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE Office of Senate Floor Analyses 1100 J Street, Suite 120 445-6614	Bill No.	AB 3007
	Author:	Sher (D)
	Amended:	3/17/88
	Vote Required:	Majority

Committee Votes:

Senate Floor Vote: page 7381, 8/11/88

COMMITTEE: RULES		
BILL NO.:	AB 3007	
DATE OF HEARING:	5-4-88	
SENATORS:	AYE	NO
Ellis		✓
Mello	✓	
Petris		
Craven (VC)	✓	
Roberti (Ch)	✓	
TOTAL:	3	1

Assembly Bill 3007—An act to add Section 425.8 to the Government Code, relating to the state mollusk.

Bill read third time and presented by Senator Morgan.
The roll was called

Roll Call

The names of the absentees were called and AB 3007 was passed by the following vote:

AYES (21)—Senators Bergeson, Campbell, Craven, Davis, Deddeh, Dills, Bill Greene, Keene, Maddy, Marks, McCorquodale, Mello, Montoya, Morgan, Nielsen, Presley, Robbins, Roberti, Rosenthal, Torres, and Watson.

NOES (15)—Senators Alquist, Ayala, Beverly, Boatwright, Ellis, Garamendi, Cecil Green, Leroy Greene, Hart, Lockyer, Rogers, Royce, Russell, Seymour, and Vuich.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Assembly Floor Vote: 43-32, P. 6435, 3/21/88

SUBJECT: Official State Mollusk: Banana Slug

SOURCE: Dynamite Blue Bird Club of Campfire Boys and Girls of Redwood City

DIGEST: This bill would designate the banana slug (Ariolimax) as California's official State Mollusk.

ANALYSIS: The following are California's official state items:

Gemstone: Benitoite, Fish: California Golden Trout, Colors: Blue and Gold Ribbons, Insect: California Dog-Face Butterfly, Nickname: The Golden State, Tree: California Redwood, Song: I Love You California, Bird: California Valley Quail, Motto: Eureka, Flower: Golden Poppy, Mineral: Gold, Flag: Bear Flag, Rock: Serpentine, Fossil: Saber-toothed Cat. Animal: Grizzly Bear, Reptile: Desert Tortoise, Marine mammal: California Gray Whale.

(Recently, the Senate approved, by a vote of 21-9, SB 2460 (Kopp) which, if enacted, would designate the West Coast Swing Dance as California's official State Dance.)

Currently there is no designation of an official State Mollusk.

One of the largest groups of invertebrate animals, the mollusk, includes more than 100,000 different species worldwide. Octopi, squid, clams, oysters, abalone, limpets, shells, mussels, scallops, chitons, marine and land snails, and slugs are all subclasses of the mollusk classification. Land slugs, such as the banana slug, are gastropods, a class of mollusk which includes all other snails, limpets, shells, and abalone.

In the case of mollusks, there are a large number of different species indigenous to locales in the state, including the pismo clam, the black abalone, red abalone, the turban shell, the two spotted octopus, common squid, and a mussel (Mytilus californianus).

The banana slug species Ariolimax columbianus was first identified by in 1851 near the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon. This particular banana slug has been found from Alaska to as far south as the Salinas Valley, and hence, cannot be considered indigenous to California. Subspecies, Ariolimax columbianus stramineus, Ariolimax californicus, Ariolimax californicus brachyphallus, and Ariolimax californicus dolichophallus however, are indigenous to central California and have been reported from Monterey to Ventura.

Among banana slugs' favorite foods are mushrooms, poison oak, ferns, and a variety of bulbs, leaves, tubers, twigs, and other organic matter found on the forest floor. Their strap-like tongue (radula) contains hundreds of tiny teeth, with which they grind their food. All this masticating helps speed the decomposition of a forest's wastes, and banana slugs' droppings make an excellent fertilizer for conifers.

The banana slug gets its name from its long body and its bright golden-yellow color. While most species in California have a gold tinge to them, others are spotted or even white. Scientists are not sure how long banana slugs live, but they are known to roam the woods for five years or longer.

The banana slug is the official school mascot of the University of California, Santa Cruz.

AB 3007 makes various findings including:

- The banana slug is an indigenous species to California.
- The banana slug's color resembles the California state color, gold.
- Banana slugs live among California's redwoods and substantially contribute to the forest ecosystem.

This bill designates genus Ariolimax, banana slug, as the official State Mollusk without reference to a particular species or subspecies.

SUPPORT: (Verified 5-3-88)

Dynamite Blue Bird Club of Campfire Boys and Girls of Redwood
City (Sponsor)
Redwood City School District
County of Santa Cruz
Kiwanis Club of Redwood City

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5-3-88)

Conchological Club of Southern California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, banana slugs are important to coniferous forests because the slugs can serve as indicators of the health of the forest. To live comfortably, slugs need the moist "micro-climate"

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CONTINUED

created at the forest floor by the massive redwoods and other trees. Natural disasters, such as fires, or human intervention, through tree cutting and other activities, can dry the forest floor. When this happens, banana slugs are likely to suffer, and their reduced numbers may indicate important changes in the forest ecosystem.

Banana slugs exemplify the endless diversity of animal and plant life in California. As forest dwellers, they are accessible to all. For years environmental educators have used banana slugs to teach basic lessons of ecology.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the Conchological Club of Southern California, the self proclaimed oldest shell club in America, "although some slugs can be beneficial to the environment, just the name "slug" carries certain bad connotations of behavior and attitude. "The red abalone, is by far the most logical and proper choice. It is the world's largest abalone and is most desirable commercially for its size and light meat color. It is also representative of both southern and northern California as it is found along the entire length of our coastline. The name "abalone" conjures up an image of a seashell with an appealing mother-of-pearl luster, as well as an image of a beautiful, surf-swept rocky coastline for which California is famous."

FISCAL EFFECT: Fiscal Committee: no

ASSEMBLY FLOOR VOTE:

Assembly Bill No. 3007 passed by the following vote:

AYES—48			
Allen	Cortese	Hauser	Polanco
Areias	Duplissca	Hill	Roos
Bader	Eastin	Hughes	Royal-Allard
Bates	Eaves	Isenberg	Sher
Bradley	Farr	Johnston	Speier
Bronzan	Filante	Jones	Tanner
Calderon	Floyd	Killea	Tucker
Campbell	Frazee	Klehs	Waters, Maxine
Chacon	Friedman	Margolin	Waters, Norman
Condit	Hansen	Moore	Mr. Speaker
Connelly	Harvey	Peace	
NOES—32			
Baker	Frizzelle	Lancaster	O'Connell
Brown, Dennis	Graham	Leonard	Quackenbush
Chandler	Hannigan	Leslie	Seastrand
Clute	Harris	Lewis	Stathos
Costa	Johnson	Longshore	Stirling
Elder	Katz	McClintock	Wright
Felton	Kelley	Mountjoy	Wyman
Ferguson	La Follette	Nahn	Zelner

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

RR:jk 5/5/88 Senate Floor Analyses

03770

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
REPUBLICAN ANALYSIS

AB 3007 (Sher) -- STATE MOLLUSK: BANANA SLUG
Version: 3/17/88 Vice-chairperson: Frank Hill
Recommendation: Oppose Vote: Majority

Summary: Designates the banana slug as the official state mollusk. Fiscal effect: None.

Supported by "Dynamite" Blue Birds of Redwood City (sponsor).
Opposed by None on file. Governor's position: Unknown.

Comments: Why on earth do we need an official state mollusk? And the banana slug? Do we want to perpetuate our whacky image?

If we are going to have an official state mollusk, let's study the issue and choose a mollusk that enhances California's economic climate, such as the abalone.

Although some consider the banana slug useful because it eats poison oak and provides slime that helps in decomposition of the redwood forests, the slugs are truly repulsive. The banana slug also is the official mascot of U.C. Santa Cruz, bastion of liberal experimentation.

Assembly Republican Committee Vote
Governmental Organization -- 3/8/88
(11-4) Ayes: Frizzelle, Hill, Johnson, Mojonnier,
Mountjoy
Noes: Baker, Grisham, Statham
Assembly Republican Floor Vote -- 3/21/88
(43-32) Ayes: Allen, Bader, Bradley, Duplissea, Filante,
Frazee, Hansen, Harvey, Hill, Jones
Noes: All other Republicans present & voting
Senate Republican Committee Vote
Rules -- 5/4/88
(3-1) Ayes: Craven
Noes: Ellis
Senate Republican Floor Vote -- 5/27/88
FAILED PASSAGE -- Reconsideration Granted
Consultant: Susan Ricci

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 3007 (Sher) - As Amended: March 17, 1988

ASSEMBLY ACTIONS:

COMMITTEE _____ G. O. _____ VOTE 11-4 COMMITTEE _____ VOTE _____

Ayes: Costa, Frizzelle, Johnson, Mojonier, Mountjoy, Sher, Tanner, Tucker, N. Waters, Hill, Floyd
Ayes:

Nays: Baker, Grisham, Harris, Statnam
Nays:

DIGEST

Existing law designates a number of things as having exclusive official state status. These include: "Eureka" - State Motto; "The Golden State" - State Nickname; golden poppy (Eschscholtzia) - State Flower; California redwood (Sequoia sempervirens, Sequoia gigantea) - State Tree; California desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizi) - State Reptile; California valley quail (Lophortyx californica) - State Bird; blue and gold - State Colors; saber-toothed cat (Smilodon californicus) - State Fossil; native gold - State Mineral; serpentine - State Rock; benitoite - State Gemstone; California gray whale (Eschrichtius robustus) as State Marine Mammal; California dog-faced butterfly (Zerene eurydice) - State Insect; and the California grizzly bear (Ursus californicus) - State Animal.

This bill designates the banana slug (Ariolimax) as the official State Mollusk.

FISCAL EFFECT

None

COMMENTS

1) Genesis

Naming the banana slug as State Mollusk was recommended to the author by a troop of Campfire Girls from his district. This particular slug, Ariolimax columbianus, is noteworthy because of its large size and brilliant yellow coloring. Found in damp coastal forest areas, the banana slug is indigenous to the Pacific Northwest. The banana slug is also the official school mascot of the University of California at Santa Cruz.

- continued -

2) Mollusks

One of the largest groups of invertebrate animals, the phylum mollusk includes more than 100,000 different species worldwide. Octopi, squid, clams, oysters, abalone, limpets, shells, mussels, scallops, chitons, marine and land snails, and slugs are all subclasses of the mollusk classification. Land slugs, such as the banana slug, are gastropods, a class of mollusk which includes all other snails, limpets, shells, and abalones.

3) Appropriateness

While there is usually a certain amount of license present in the designation of official state status, the general rule for such choices appears to have been centered on accepted custom and the particular uniqueness of the named object to the environs of the state. In the case of mollusks, there are a large number of different species indigenous to locales in the state, including the pismo clam (Tivela stultorum), the black abalone (Haliotis cracherodii), red abalone (Haliotis refesens), the turban shell (Tegula montereyi), the two spotted octopus (Octopus bimaculatus), common squid (Loligo opalescens), and a mussel (Mytilus californianus).

4) Which Slug is The Right Slug?

The species Ariolimax columbianus was first identified by A. A. Gould in 1851 near the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon. This particular banana slug has been found from Alaska to as far south as the Salinas Valley, and hence, cannot be considered indigenous to California. Subspecies, Ariolimax columbianus stramineus, Ariolimax californicus, Ariolimax californicus brachyphallus, and Ariolimax californicus dolichophallus however, are indigenous to central California and have been reported from Monterey to Ventura. The differences between species are primarily those of coloring and the size of genital organs. Unfortunately, the only way a true California banana slug can be identified separately from other species is by dissecting the slug and mounting its ctenidia (respiratory organs) for examination.

ENROLLED BILL REPORT

AGENCY	RESOURCES	BILL NUMBER AB 3007
DEPARTMENT, BOARD OR COMMISSION Department of Fish and Game		AUTHOR Sher

I. SUBJECT:

Designate the banana slug as the official State mollusk.

II. SPONSOR:

Bay Area environmentalists and the Camp Fire Kids Club of Redwood City.

III. SUMMARY:

Existing law designates an official State flower, tree, reptile, bird, insect, animal, and marine mammal, but does not designate an official State mollusk.

IV. ANALYSIS:

A. Specific Findings: Bay Area environmentalists and the Redwood City Camp Fire Kids Club have recommended that the banana slug be designated by the Legislature as the official State mollusk. The slug is common in old growth redwood forests, but disappears when such areas are logged by the clear-cut method. It requires considerable moisture and is considered a good indicator species of the health of old growth forests.

B. Fiscal Impact: None.

V. ARGUMENTS PRO & CON:

A. Arguments in Support of the Bill: The banana slug requires considerable moisture and is considered a good indicator species of the health of old growth forests. Many such forests are being logged which is impacting associated flora and fauna. Publicity for the banana slug helps focus attention on the plight of old growth forests. Environmental groups support the passage of AB 3007.

B. Arguments in Opposition to the Bill: The Abalone Ad Hoc Committee, representing commercial fishing, recreational fishing, mariculture, and scientific interests concerned with the abalone resource, previously endorsed, at its February 21, 1987 meeting, designating the red abalone (another mollusk) as the State shellfish. The Committee noted that the red abalone is found from border to border in

Contact: Vern Goehring
445-9889 (day)
687-7704 (night)

RECOMMENDATION:

~~SIG~~ VETO

DEPARTMENT HEAD <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 8/14/87	AGENCY HEAD <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE
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California and almost nowhere else; grows to the largest size of any abalone in the world; has a beautiful shell that has been used in trade and jewelry for thousands of years; and is the subject of important recreational and commercial fisheries in the State.

VI. LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Senate Floor vote: Unavailable. 8-11-88 Ayes-21 - Noes 15

Assembly Floor vote: 3-1-88 P 43-32

VII. RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends SIGN because:

1. The designation of the banana slug as the State mollusk will help focus attention on the need to safeguard old growth forest habitat in California.
2. Other mollusks, the red abalone in particular, have special attributes that warrant such designation. However, the habitat problem facing the flora and fauna of old growth forests is of greater significance.

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STATE CAPITOL
 P O BOX 942849
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 TELEPHONE (916) 445-9367

August 22, 1988

Honorable George Deukmejian
 Governor
 State Capitol
 Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Deukmejian:

Assembly Bill 3007 is before you for your signature. This measure names the Banana Slug as California's Official State Mollusk.

The sponsors of this bill are the members of the Dynamite Blue Bird Club of Campfire Boys and Girls from Redwood City. Through an environmental education program, the Blue Birds came to know and respect Banana Slugs as unique members of California's environment. AB 3007 reflects the Blue Birds' efforts to recognize the special character of this animal.

Naming the Banana Slug the official State Mollusk is most appropriate. California is the only state where all five species and sub-species of Banana Slugs are found. Only one species also exists outside of the state, and its range extends to Alaska. This bill names the genus Ariolimax as the State Mollusk, without respect to a particular species or sub-species. The Banana Slug is found in coastal forests from Ventura County to the Oregon border.

Banana slugs are easy to look down on, but when you learn a little about them, you see that they are important to the well-being of the forests. Some species of Banana Slugs are colored bright yellow-gold, reminiscent of our state color. Banana Slugs grow largest, up to 12 inches, among one of our state trees, the Coast Redwoods. They have a symbiotic relationship with the Redwoods. Banana Slugs rely on the cool, moist environment at the forest floor created by mature Redwoods and, in turn, Banana Slugs consume all growth around Redwood seedlings. Further, Banana Slugs produce nitrogen, essential to Redwood growth, in a form which is readily absorbed by the trees.

Banana Slugs consume nearly any organic matter on the forest floor, including poison oak, which human beings can well do without. Banana Slugs do not leave their forest environment to attack commercial croplands.

Banana Slugs exemplify the endless diversity of animal and plant life in California. As forest dwellers, they are accessible to all.

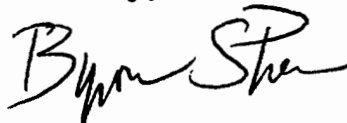
For years, environmental educators have used Banana Slugs to teach basic lessons of ecology. AB 3007 has served to educate young people from my district and elsewhere in the state about the legislative process. An educational packet to help children learn about ecology and the legislative process was sent to 70 educators and others, from Sacramento to Los Angeles. For these reasons, I believe the bill is already a success.

I can tell from the enclosed press photograph that you are not totally unfamiliar with the virtues of the Banana Slug. They have warmed my heart as well.

Your signature will both complete the education of the Redwood City Dynamite Blue Birds, and confer recognition on an important member of our ecological community.

I respectfully request that you sign into law AB 3007, designating the Banana Slug as California's official State Mollusk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Byron Sher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Byron" and the last name "Sher" clearly distinguishable.

BYRON D. SHER
Assemblyman, 21st District

BDS:jmh
Enclosure



GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR

State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO 95814

August 29, 1988

To the Members of the California Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill No. 3007 without my signature.

This bill would designate the banana slug (*Ariolimax*) as California's official state mollusk.

The mollusk is one of the largest groups of invertebrate animals and includes more than 100,000 different species worldwide. Octopi, squid, clams, oysters, abalone, mussels, scallops, snails and slugs are all subclasses of the mollusk classification. There are a large number of different mollusk species indigenous to locales in the state, including the pismo clam, the black abalone, the red abalone, the turban shell, the two spotted octopus, common squid and a mussel (*mytilus californianus*).

The banana slug species *ariolimax* was first identified near the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon and has been found from Alaska to as far south as the Salinas Valley.

It appears, that to the extent possible, official state items are indigenous to California. Thus, the state fish is the California Golden Trout, the insect is the California Dog-Face Butterfly, the bird is the California Valley Quail and so forth. If there is a need to designate a state mollusk, it would be more appropriate to select one that is indigenous to California and perhaps one that is more representative of the international reputation that California enjoys.

Cordially,

George Deukmejian

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT
1 (888) 676-1947**

GOVERNOR'S VETO

AB 3007 (Sher) - As Amended: March 17, 1988

ASSEMBLY VOTE 75-0 (May 19, 1988) SENATE VOTE 21-15 (August 11, 1988)Original Committee Reference: G. O.DIGEST

Existing law designates a number of things as having exclusive official state status. These include: "Eureka" - State Motto; "The Golden State" - State Nickname; golden poppy (Eschscholtzia) - State Flower; California redwood (Sequoia sempervirens, Sequoia gigantea) - State Tree; California desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizi) - State Reptile; California valley quail (Lophortyx californica) - State Bird; blue and gold - State Colors; saber-toothed cat (Smilodon californicus) - State Fossil; native gold - State Mineral; serpentine - State Rock; benitoite - State Gemstone; California gray whale (Eschrichtius robustus) as State Marine Mammal; California dog-faced butterfly (Zerene eurydice) - State Insect; and the California grizzly bear (Ursus californicus) - State Animal.

As passed by the Senate and the Assembly, this bill designated the banana slug (Ariolimax) as the official State Mollusk.

FISCAL EFFECT

None

COMMENTS

The Governor stated in his veto message:

This bill would designate the banana slug (Ariolimax) as California's official state mollusk.

The mollusk is one of the largest groups of invertebrate animals and includes more than 100,000 different species worldwide. Octopi, squid, clams, oysters, abalone, mussels, scallops, snails, and slugs are all subclasses of the mollusk classification. There are a large number of different mollusk species indigenous to locales in the state, including the pismo clam, the black abalone, the red abalone, the turban shell, the two spotted octopus, common squid and a mussel (mytilus californianus).

- continued -

The banana slug species *ariolimax* was first identified near the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon and has been found from Alaska to as far south as the Salinas Valley.

It appears, that to the extent possible, official state items are indigenous to California. Thus, the state fish is the California Golden Trout, the insect is the California Dog-Face Butterfly, the bird is the California Valley Quail and so forth. If there is a need to designate a state mollusk, it would be more appropriate to select one that is indigenous to California and perhaps one that is more representative of the international reputation that California enjoys.