

House Bill 357

By: Representatives Buckner of the 137th, Knight of the 130th, Rhodes of the 120th, Pullin of the 131st, Bentley of the 139th, and others

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to state symbols, so as to designate the shoal bass as the official Georgia state native
3 riverine sport fish; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 The Georgia General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) The shoal bass has unique sporting qualities; occurs in abundance in the Flint,
9 Chattahoochee, and Ocmulgee rivers; and is dependent upon clean, flowing water;
10 (2) This unique native riverine sport fish moves dozens, and at times hundreds, of miles
11 to complete its spawning and other life stages and is therefore dependent upon long,
12 unobstructed segments of Georgia's rivers, in addition to high-quality shoal habitats; and
13 (3) Both the hard rock formations of Georgia's piedmont region and the lime rock
14 formations of Georgia's coastal plain are important to this unique native riverine sport fish,
15 and important fishing and tourist economies are structured around this creature.

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state
18 symbols, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

19 "50-3-89.

20 The shoal bass (*Micropterus cataractae*) is designated as the official Georgia state native
21 riverine sport fish."

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.