

House Bill 483

By: Representatives Buckner of the 137<sup>th</sup>, Greene of the 151<sup>st</sup>, Dukes of the 154<sup>th</sup>, Caldwell of the 131<sup>st</sup>, and Powell of the 171<sup>st</sup>

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 state native riverine  
3 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 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

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

15 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

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

18 "50-3-87.

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

21 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 3.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.