

House Bill 1297

By: Representatives Everett of the 163rd, Bridges of the 9th, Pelote of the 149th, Poag of the 6th, James of the 140th 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 grits as the official prepared food of the State of
3 Georgia; 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 General Assembly finds and determines that:

- 8 (1) Grits are bits of ground corn or hominy which constitute a uniquely indigenous
9 Southern food first produced by Native Americans many centuries ago; and
10 (2) Grammatically, the word "grits" enjoys the notable distinction of being a rare noun
11 which is always plural but which may properly be used as either singular or plural in
12 writing and speaking; and
13 (3) According to the October, 1999, issue of *Smithsonian Magazine*, it can even be
14 argued that grits are America's first food, as evidenced by the Powhatan Indians' serving
15 of cracked maize porridge to the country's first European settlers; and
16 (4) This prepared food is well known to all Georgians, both those who are citizens of our
17 state by birth and those who are Georgians by choice, but may initially be a source of
18 confusion to newly arrived visitors, especially those who have been told that they grow
19 on grits trees; and
20 (5) Inasmuch as corn is a preeminent Georgia crop grown throughout the state, the use
21 and consumption of grits promote Georgia's vital agricultural economy; and
22 (6) Grits can be a pure and simple breakfast dish or can be incorporated into gourmet
23 cooking through countless recipes; and
24 (7) The preparation of grits has been praised and memorialized in many literary
25 endeavors and cookbooks, including, among others, *Gone With the Grits* by Diane

1 Pfeiffer, *True Grits* by Joni Miller, and the *Good Old Grits Cookbook* by Bill Neal et al.;

2 and

3 (8) It has been said of grits with literal truth that no one can eat just one; and

4 (9) The importance of grits has been evidenced through the denomination of the Atlanta

5 Falcons' Grits Blitz; and

6 (10) The role of grits in our culture has been best and most recently recognized by the

7 National Grits Festival held in Warwick, Georgia, on April 21, 2001; and

8 (11) People throughout the nation and world think of the South in association with grits;

9 and appropriate Georgia recognition of grits will help promote tourism in the state.

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SECTION 2.

11 Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state

12 symbols, is amended by adding a new Code Section 50-3-78 to read as follows:

13 "50-3-78.

14 Grits are recognized as the official prepared food of the State of Georgia."

15

SECTION 3.

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