

House Bill 993

By: Representatives Everett of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Pelote of the 149<sup>th</sup>, Poag of the 6<sup>th</sup> and Bridges of the 9<sup>th</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 grits as the official processed food of the State  
3 of 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) Grits can be a pure and simple breakfast dish or can be incorporated into gourmet  
21 cooking through countless recipes; and

22 (6) The preparation of grits has been praised and memorialized in many literary  
23 endeavors and cookbooks, including, among others, Gone with the Grits by Diane  
24 Pfeiffer, True Grits by Joni Miller, and the Good Old Grits Cookbook by Bill Neal et al.;  
25 and

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

1 (8) The importance of grits has been evidenced through the denomination of the Atlanta  
2 Falcons' Grits Blitz; and

3 (9) The role of grits in our culture has been best and most recently recognized by the  
4 National Grits Festival held in Warwick, Georgia, on April 21, 2001.

5 **SECTION 2.**

6 Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state  
7 symbols, is amended by adding a new Code Section 50-3-78 to read as follows:

8 "50-3-78.

9 Grits are recognized as the official processed food of the State of Georgia."

10 **SECTION 3.**

11 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.