

**SB225 INTRODUCED**



1 SB225  
2 SGLW878-1  
3 By Senators Gudger, Weaver  
4 RFD: Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development  
5 First Read: 19-Mar-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would designate Little Bluestem as the official State Native Grass of Alabama.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to state symbols; to designate Little Bluestem as the official state native grass.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(1) *Schizachyrium scoparium*, commonly known as Little Bluestem, is a warm-season grass native to lower Canada and all of the United States except Nevada and Washington.

(2) Little Bluestem fosters healthier Alabama ecosystems by maintaining ecological balance and creating and enhancing habitats that support environmental heterogeneity.

(3) Little Bluestem is vital to the overall resilience of Alabama ecosystems by combating Alabama's challenges regarding drought conditions and soil erosion.

(4) Little Bluestem contributes to the overall richness of Alabama's wildlife. In addition to the structure of Little



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29 Bluestem offering cover and nesting sites for birds, insects,  
30 and small mammals, the seeds of Little Bluestem serve as a  
31 food source for various organisms.

32 (5) Little Bluestem's distinctive blue-green foliage  
33 and reddish-brown seed heads offer unique aesthetic benefits  
34 for the residents and visitors of Alabama by adding to the  
35 inherent beauty of Alabama's landscapes and natural areas.

36 (6) The planting of Little Bluestem aligns with  
37 existing conservation and ecological restoration initiatives  
38 in Alabama. Little Bluestem's inclusion in restoration  
39 projects aids in the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems,  
40 particularly in areas impacted by agriculture, urbanization,  
41 and other land-use changes.

42 (b) Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, is hereby  
43 declared to be the official State Native Grass of Alabama.

44 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
45 1, 2024.