

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Senate Bill 333 (as enrolled)**Sponsor: Senator Vern Ehlers****Senate Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs****House Committee: State Affairs****Date Completed: 2-16-88*****RATIONALE***

The trout is designated as the State fish of Michigan. According to the Department of Natural Resources there are four species of trout found in this State—the brook, brown, rainbow, and lake. This has resulted in nonspecific depictions of the State fish showing parts from the various species. Although two of these species are native to the State—the brook and lake trout—the lake trout is found only in the Great Lakes while the brook trout is native to both the Great Lakes and many of the State's inland waters. Since the brook trout is native to a wider range of Michigan waters than other species, some believe it should be designated as Michigan's State fish, rather than just the "trout".

CONTENT

The bill would amend Public Act 58 of 1965 (which established the trout as the State fish for Michigan) to change the designation of the State fish from "trout" to "brook trout". The bill would also require the State to use all materials previously prepared that make reference to the trout as the State fish before preparing new materials that refer to the brook trout.

MCL 2.15

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

ARGUMENTS***Supporting Argument***

Currently, the trout is the State fish. Because of this broad designation, much confusion exists as to which trout, specifically, this refers. By specifying the brook trout as the State fish, thus distinguishing it from other species of trout, the bill would clarify the matter and extend visibility and promotional value to the State fish. The brook trout's beauty, its fighting spirit as a game fish, and its native relationship to many of this State's waters make it an ideal State symbol—not just for people who fish, but for everyone interested in this State's natural beauty.

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S.B. 333 (2-16-88)