

Legislative Analysis



DESIGNATE MANOOMIN (MICHIGAN WILD RICE) AS OFFICIAL STATE NATIVE GRAIN

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4852 as passed by the House
Sponsor: Rep. Carrie Rheingans
Committee: Agriculture
Complete to 9-13-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

(Enacted as Public Act 247 of 2023)

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4852 would designate manoomin (Michigan wild rice) as the official native grain of Michigan.

BACKGROUND:

While once prevalent throughout Michigan, wild rice is no longer as common as it was in Michigan prior to its statehood. Wild rice grew in marshy areas in and around lakes and rivers, and as the environment was altered to facilitate travel and increase farmable land area, the rice's habitat was diminished, and manoomin became almost extinct in Michigan.

In the last several decades, efforts have begun to restore manoomin's wetlands habitat so the species can be revived. To aid in these efforts, supporters that believe designating manoomin as the official native grain will allow for increased education of the important role it plays in the state's history, not only as a native species but for its importance to the native tribes who inhabited Michigan prior to European presence.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or on local units of government.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill (9-13-23):

- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Clean Water Action

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