

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6121

As of January 24, 2020

Title: An act relating to designating the Pacific razor clam as the state clam.

Brief Description: Designating the Pacific razor clam as the new state clam.

Sponsors: Senators Takko and Pedersen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections: 1/24/20.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designates the Pacific razor clam the official state clam of Washington.
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Jarrett Sacks (786-7448)

Background: The Pacific razor clam, *Siliqua patula*, is a species of shellfish that ranges from California to Alaska. In Washington waters, razor clams grow to a maximum of six inches and live for about five years. Clam digging is a popular recreational activity. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulates clam digging season and harvest limits. The state Department of Health monitors water quality and contaminant levels in molluscan shellfish to provide information to the public about where and how to harvest shellfish that are safe to eat.

No state has designated an official state clam, but the state shell of Rhode Island is the quahaug, a type of hard-shelled clam. Washington established a state oyster, the *Ostrea lurida*, in 2014.

Summary of Bill: The Pacific razor clam is designated as the the official state clam of Washington.

Appropriation: None.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The razor clam is an economic driver on the coast. Sometimes, 20,000 people visit the peninsula to dig for clams. A good clam season boosts local economies. Designating a state clam will allow those areas to use it as a marketing tool. People travel from all over to dig clams.

Persons Testifying: Senator Dean Takko, Prime Sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.