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**SENATE BILL 5615**

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**State of Washington****67th Legislature****2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lovick, Hunt, Hasegawa, Honeyford, Lovelett, Nobles, Pedersen, Randall, Rolfes, and Wellman

Prefiled 12/29/21. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1       AN ACT Relating to designating pickleball as the official state  
2 sport; adding a new section to chapter 1.20 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the sport  
6 of pickleball was created in 1965 on Bainbridge Island by Joel McFee  
7 Pritchard, who went on to be elected lieutenant governor and member  
8 of Congress for Washington, along with two of his friends, Bill Bell  
9 and Barney McCallum. These men created the game at Pritchard's summer  
10 cabin after they "persuaded" their abnormally hyper children to go  
11 outside to play a few games of badminton, but there was no badminton  
12 equipment to be found. Instead, these fathers did some brainstorming  
13 and created a new game using ping-pong paddles, a net, and a  
14 neighbor's plastic wiffle ball. The rules that they created for the  
15 new game, which they named pickleball, are still used today by the  
16 USA Pickleball Association.

17       The legislature finds that pickleball is a game that can be  
18 played by anyone, one-on-one, or as a team, and has expanded far  
19 beyond Washington to become a nationally and internationally beloved  
20 game; over four million people play pickleball in the United States  
21 and there are currently 67 member countries in the International

1 Federation of Pickleball. Soon pickleball will even be televised by  
2 Fox Sports. The legislature intends to honor and recognize the  
3 Washingtonians who created, popularized, and continue to enjoy this  
4 sport by designating pickleball the official sport of the state of  
5 Washington.

6        NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 1.20 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8            The sport of pickleball is hereby designated as the official  
9 sport of the state of Washington.

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