

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 5615

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Designating pickleball as the official state sport.

**Sponsors:** Senators Lovick, Hunt, Hasegawa, Honeyford, Lovelett, Nobles, Pedersen, Randall, Rolfes and Wellman.

**Senate Committee on State Government & Elections**  
**House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations**

**Background:** On a Saturday afternoon in the summer of 1965, Congressman (and future Lieutenant Governor) Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum devised a new game for their families at Pritchard's summer cabin on Bainbridge Island. Combining elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, pickleball is played with a paddle and a plastic ball similar to a wiffle ball. Pritchard, Bell, and McCallum intended for the game to be enjoyed by persons of all ages and skill levels. Pickleball can be played as singles or doubles.

Today, the national governing body for pickleball, USA Pickleball, has approximately 40,000 registered members and estimates that over 4 million people play pickleball at nearly 8500 locations nationally, while the International Federation of Pickleball counts 67 member countries.

**Summary:** Pickleball is designated as the official state sport.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	46	1
House	83	15

**Effective:** June 9, 2022

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