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

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

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

The legislature finds that pickleball is a game that can be
played by anyone, one-on-one, or as a team, and has expanded far
beyond Washington to become a nationally and internationally beloved
game; over four million people play pickleball in the United States
and there are currently 67 member countries in the International
Federation of Pickleball. Soon pickleball will even be televised by Fox Sports. The legislature intends to honor and recognize the Washingtonians who created, popularized, and continue to enjoy this sport by designating pickleball the official sport of the state of Washington.

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

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

--- END ---