

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5325

As of January 30, 2025

Title: An act relating to designating the state cactus.

Brief Description: Designating the state cactus.

Sponsors: Senators Warnick, Nobles, Riccelli, Shewmake and Valdez.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections: 2/04/25.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designates the Columbia Plateau cactus as the state cactus.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Danielle Creech (786-7412)

Background: The *Pediocactus nigrispinus*, more commonly known as the basalt cactus, snowball cactus, hedgehog cactus, or Columbia Plateau cactus, is found east of the Cascades Crest in big sagebrush and lower montane dry habitats throughout Central to Eastern Washington and Central to Northeastern Oregon, extending into the dry western regions of Idaho. This cactus exhibits a diverse color range, varying from green to grayish-blue and in the spring, they sprout bright pink, magenta or yellowish-green colored flowers near the apex of each stem. Initially spherical, the plant transforms into an egg-shaped, densely spiny configuration as it matures. The Columbia Plateau cactus reaches heights between 5 and 30 centimeters and diameters spanning 5 to 15 centimeters. This cactus is characterized by a dense arrangement of 6 to 12 central spines measuring 15 to 35 millimeters in length and showcasing colors ranging from brown to reddish, nearly black.

Summary of Bill: The Columbia Plateau cactus is designated as the official cactus of the

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state of Washington.

Appropriation: None.

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.