

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5625

As of February 18, 2025

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

Brief Description: Designating the Pacific geoduck as the state clam.

Sponsors: Senators Shewmake, Boehnke, MacEwen, Slatter, Lovelett, Wellman, Conway, Frame, Saldaña, Wilson, J., Wagoner, Riccelli and Nobles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections: 2/18/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Designates the Pacific geoduck as the official clam of the state of Washington.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Danielle Creech (786-7412)

Background: *Panopea generosa*, more commonly known as the Pacific geoduck, is the world's largest burrowing clam. With a small shell and very long siphon, or neck, geoducks are found along the West Coast of the United States. There is both a wild harvest and a growing geoduck aquaculture industry, particularly in Washington State. The majority of Washington's geoduck farming takes place in southern Puget Sound. Geoducks live long lives, with the oldest geoduck recorded at 168 years old. These clams burrow into the sediment about one foot per year, to a depth of three feet. In the first three to five years of life, geoducks grow to 1.5 pounds, though they may not reach the maximum size of approximately 7 pounds for 15 years. Female geoducks release between 1 and 2 million eggs per spawn.

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.

Summary of Bill: *Panopea generosa*, or Pacific geoduck, is designated as the official clam of the 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.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The geoduck is great. It is the largest burrowing clam in the world and can live up to 168 years. Geoducks clean the water as they live and that's pretty cool.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Sharon Shewmake, Prime Sponsor.

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