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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2346 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY O'NEILL, DENLINGER, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO,  
HENNESSEY, KILLION, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT, PAINTER,  
READSHAW, THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON AND AUMENT, JUNE 12, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 12, 2014

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AN ACT

1 Designating and adopting the Shoofly Pie as the official State  
2 pie of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

4 (1) Encouraged by William Penn's open invitation to  
5 persecuted religious groups, various sects of Christian  
6 Anabaptists, including the Mennonite, the Amish and the  
7 Brethren, emigrated from Germany and Switzerland. The first  
8 sizeable group arrived in America in the 1730s and settled  
9 near Lancaster County.

10 (2) The Shoofly Pie is common in Pennsylvania's Amish  
11 and Mennonite communities and is, perhaps, the dessert most  
12 identified with these communities.

13 (3) The Shoofly Pie was originally created using dietary  
14 staples of the early settlers, particularly those that would  
15 have survived a long boat trip. These staples were flour,  
16 brown sugar, molasses, lard, salt and spices.

17 (4) The Shoofly Pie consists of a crumb-topped molasses

1 and egg filling within a pie shell.

2 (5) Shoofly Pie seems to be a variation of the older  
3 Treacle Tart, a common dessert in Great Britain. Treacle is  
4 the British generic name for any syrup made during the  
5 refining of sugar cane. Molasses was often substituted for  
6 treacle in colonial American recipes.

7 (6) One theory regarding the origin of the name Shoofly  
8 Pie relates to the pools of sweet, sticky molasses that  
9 sometimes formed on the surface of the pie while it was  
10 cooling, invariably attracting flies.

11 (7) The Shoofly Pie has a very special place in  
12 Pennsylvania's culinary history and in the hearts of  
13 Commonwealth residents and visitors alike.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. Official State pie.

17 The Shoofly Pie is hereby designated and adopted as the  
18 official State pie of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

19 Section 2. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect in 60 days.