

JAN 14 2004  
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2001  
BY FREEMAN

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution designating the monarch butterfly as the  
2 official state insect of the State of Iowa.  
3 WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is native to  
4 Iowa and is one of the most successful and widely distributed  
5 animal species in the world; and  
6 WHEREAS, monarch butterflies delight Iowans, young and old, by  
7 their abundance and by their striking, vivid orange and black  
8 coloration; and  
9 WHEREAS, monarch butterflies lay their eggs only on milkweed  
10 and monarch caterpillars feed only on milkweed, so Iowa provides  
11 a wonderful home to these beautiful creatures with its abundant  
12 milkweed that is common near farm fields and in other  
13 uncultivated areas; and  
14 WHEREAS, due to the abundance of milkweed, about half of the  
15 world's population of monarchs originates in Iowa and the  
16 neighboring corn belt states; and  
17 WHEREAS, monarch butterflies are unique in the animal world  
18 because their diet of milkweed gives them a natural toxin which  
19 protects them from predators; and  
20 WHEREAS, monarch butterflies of Iowa and neighboring states  
21 are also unique because they are the only butterflies in the  
22 world to make a mass long-distance migration in the fall; and  
23 WHEREAS, monarch butterflies sense the seasonal changes of  
24 light and temperature in the fall and gather together for their

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1 amazing annual 3,000-mile journey from Iowa to spend the winter  
2 in central Mexico, earning them the nickname "The International  
3 Travelers"; and

4 WHEREAS, monarch butterflies return to Iowa every May to  
5 herald the return of spring and to enchant Iowans once again with  
6 their delicate beauty; NOW THEREFORE,

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. STATE INSECT DESIGNATED. The monarch butterfly  
2 (Danaus plexippus) is designated and shall be officially known  
3 as the state insect of Iowa.

4 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS. The director of the  
5 department of cultural affairs shall obtain appropriate  
6 pictures and other representations of the monarch butterfly  
7 and shall display the pictures and representations in an  
8 appropriate place in the state historical museum.

9 Sec. 3. OFFICIAL REGISTER. The editor of the Iowa  
10 official register shall include an appropriate picture and  
11 commentary of the monarch butterfly in the Iowa official  
12 register, along with the pictures of the state rock, state  
13 flower, state bird, and state tree.

14 EXPLANATION

15 This joint resolution designates the monarch butterfly as  
16 the official state insect of Iowa. The director of the  
17 department of cultural affairs is required to obtain pictures  
18 and other appropriate representations of the monarch butterfly  
19 and display the pictures and information in the state  
20 historical museum. The editor of the Iowa official register  
21 is required to include in the register a picture of the  
22 monarch butterfly along with the pictures of the state rock,  
23 state bird, state tree, and state flower.

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