

MAR 11 1997  
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17  
BY MASCHER and VANDE HOEF

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

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution recognizing the fossil crinoid as the state  
2 fossil.  
3 WHEREAS, the study of fossils contained in sedimentary rock  
4 formations in the state provides geologists with evidence of the  
5 geological and paleontological history of the state; and  
6 WHEREAS, fossils of crinoids, marine invertebrates which live  
7 in all depths and temperatures, are abundant in the rock of  
8 marine origin underlying the state, including significant  
9 deposits in the cities of Burlington, Le Grand, and Gilmore City;  
10 and  
11 WHEREAS, the crinoid has survived 475 million years of earth  
12 history and remains an active part of the world's ocean life; and  
13 WHEREAS, crinoid skeletal fragments make up a significant  
14 portion of the limestone deposits of Iowa, providing Iowa  
15 industry with the limestone used for road base, as agricultural  
16 lime, as building stone, and as the raw material for cement  
17 including "portland cement", which is used to form the most  
18 widely used type of construction cement; and  
19 WHEREAS, in addition to the economic benefits resulting from  
20 the presence of fossil crinoids, the crinoid has also brought  
21 recognition to the state and to citizens of the state as the  
22 result of the research of both professionals and amateurs, and  
23 WHEREAS, three of these researchers have received recognition  
24 in the global scientific community for their efforts: Charles

#3R 17

1 Wachsmuth (1829-1896), a German immigrant who settled at  
2 Burlington and who, due to his collecting, research, and writings  
3 regarding the crinoid, received an appointment to the Museum of  
4 Comparative Zoology at Harvard University; Frank Spinger (1848-  
5 1927) who, as an attorney practicing in Burlington, became a  
6 friend and coworker of Charles Wachsmuth with whom he produced  
7 many texts on crinoids and for whom a room at the Smithsonian  
8 Institution is named; and Burnice H. Bean (1879-1966) who, as a  
9 farmer near Le Grand, collected, studied and wrote about  
10 crinoids, savings thousands of perfectly preserved fossil  
11 crinoids from destruction, thereby providing universities and  
12 museums across the nation with exhibits of these specimens,  
13 including a current exhibit at the State Historical Building; and  
14 WHEREAS, the fossil crinoid, also referred to as the sea lily,  
15 is a symbol of the state's geological and paleontological  
16 heritage, has provided economic benefits to the state as a source  
17 of limestone, and is recognized for its completeness and beauty  
18 worldwide; NOW THEREFORE,

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

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1 Section 1. The fossil crinoid shall officially be  
2 designated as the state fossil of Iowa.

3 Sec. 2. In commemoration of the naming of the fossil  
4 crinoid as the state fossil, the citizens of the state are  
5 encouraged to tour the current exhibit at the state historical  
6 building entitled "Flowers of the Iowa Seas" which includes  
7 specimens of fossil crinoids and examples of a variety of other  
8 former and current inhabitants of Iowa's seas.

9 Sec. 3. The edition of the Iowa official register shall  
10 include an appropriate illustration of the fossil crinoid,  
11 accompanied by suitable text in the section devoted to the  
12 state flower, state bird, state rock, and state tree.

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#### EXPLANATION

14 This resolution proposes the official designation of the  
15 fossil crinoid as the state fossil. The resolution describes  
16 the way in which the fossil crinoid has benefited the state,  
17 including the fossil's economic and aesthetic benefits, and  
18 encourages the citizens of Iowa to tour the current exhibit at  
19 the state historical building entitled "Flowers of the Iowa  
20 Seas" in recognition of the naming of the fossil crinoid as the  
21 state fossil. The edition of the Iowa official register is  
22 also to include an appropriate illustration of the fossil  
23 crinoid accompanied by suitable text in the section devoted to  
24 the state's other official symbols.

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