

FEB 19 2001  
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7  
BY HANSEN

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

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution designating the black squirrel as the official  
2 state animal of Iowa.

3 WHEREAS, the black, or melanistic, fox squirrel population  
4 comprises less than ten percent of the total fox squirrel  
5 population in Iowa; and

6 WHEREAS, the majority of the state's black squirrels are  
7 located in and around Council Bluffs, to the delight of local  
8 citizens and tourists; and

9 WHEREAS, the black squirrels are active year-round during the  
10 daytime, and their communication with one another through chirps  
11 and tail gestures make them highly entertaining to watch; and

12 WHEREAS, the unique coloration of the black squirrels and  
13 their comparative rarity make them a valuable natural treasure,  
14 and it is thus altogether fitting and proper to encourage  
15 widespread interest in the black squirrel; NOW THEREFORE,  
16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HSR 7

1 Section 1. STATE ANIMAL DESIGNATED. The black squirrel is  
2 designated and shall be officially known as the state animal  
3 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 black squirrel and  
7 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 black squirrel in the Iowa official  
12 register, along with the pictures of the state rock, state  
13 bird, state tree, and state flower.

14 EXPLANATION

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

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