

FILED JAN 12 '01

RULES & ADMINISTRATION

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION  
BY FRAISE and COURTNEY

2001

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution designating the channel catfish as the  
2 official state fish for the State of Iowa.

3 WHEREAS, the channel catfish (*ictalurus punctatus*) is a native  
4 fish to Iowa's prairie streams and rivers inhabiting all 99  
5 counties, and is one of the most abundant fish in Iowa lakes,  
6 streams, and rivers; and

7 WHEREAS, the channel catfish's appearance is easily  
8 recognizable by its slender scaleless body, deeply forked tail,  
9 fleshy whiskers, and sharp spines; and

10 WHEREAS, the channel catfish can be caught with a wide variety  
11 of tackle, most of which is inexpensive and available to all  
12 anglers; and

13 WHEREAS, the channel catfish is excellent table fare, with  
14 Iowa anglers reporting that they eat catfish more often than any  
15 other sport fish; and

16 WHEREAS, more Iowans participate in sport fishing than any  
17 other outdoor recreational sport with nearly one million anglers  
18 spending approximately \$400 million annually and generating \$1.2  
19 billion in economic activity; and

20 WHEREAS, the channel catfish are the most preferred fish among  
21 Iowa anglers, reaching trophy size above 30 pounds and providing  
22 pole-bending action, with over four million caught annually; and

23 WHEREAS, the channel catfish is an important fish to  
24 Mississippi river commercial fishers with nearly 500,000 pounds

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1 of channel catfish marketed each year from the river; NOW  
2 THEREFORE,  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. STATE FISH DESIGNATED. The channel catfish  
2 (ictalurus punctatus) is designated and shall be officially  
3 known as the state fish 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 channel catfish 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 channel catfish 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 channel catfish as the  
16 official state fish of Iowa. The director of the department  
17 of cultural affairs shall obtain pictures and other  
18 appropriate representations of the state fish and display the  
19 pictures and information in the state historical museum. The  
20 editor of the Iowa official register shall include a picture  
21 of the state fish along with pictures of the state rock, state  
22 bird, state tree, and state flower.

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