

House Joint Resolution 10 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 10
BY R. TAYLOR, HEARTSILL,
FISHER, HEATON, McKEAN,
SIECK, KAUFMANN, COWNIE,
WILLS, and BACON

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution designating the honeybee as the official
2 state insect for the State of Iowa.
3 WHEREAS, honeybees (*apis mellifera*) most likely originated
4 in tropical Africa and were brought to the new world with
5 the first Spanish and English colonists and quickly escaped
6 into the wild, eventually populating the entire western
7 hemisphere; and
8 WHEREAS, bees pollinate approximately 75 percent of
9 the fruit, nut, and vegetable plants grown in the United
10 States; and
11 WHEREAS, one-third of the food produced in the United States
12 depends on insect pollination, 80 percent of which is due to
13 honeybees; and
14 WHEREAS, tiny as they are, honeybees play a key role in
15 Iowa's agroecosystem, with plant pollination performed by
16 honeybees valued at an estimated \$92 million annually; and
17 WHEREAS, approximately 1,500 Iowa beekeepers manage around
18 30,000 colonies of honeybees that produce over 3 million pounds
19 of honey annually; and
20 WHEREAS, limited field trials in Clarion, Iowa, revealed
21 crop yield gains of 8 percent in soybean fields with honeybee
22 hives placed in close proximity; and
23 WHEREAS, honey bee pollination is critical to plant and
24 human survival; NOW THEREFORE,
25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. STATE INSECT DESIGNATED. The honeybee (apis
2 mellifera) is designated and shall officially be known as the
3 state insect of Iowa.

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

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

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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