

House Joint Resolution 8 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8
BY JONES

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1 A Joint Resolution designating the regal fritillary as the
2 official state insect of the State of Iowa.

3 WHEREAS, the regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*) is one of
4 Iowa's largest native butterflies with a wingspan that can
5 exceed four inches; and

6 WHEREAS, the regal fritillary is one of temperate North
7 America's most striking butterflies with forewings that are a
8 rich reddish orange with a number of irregularly shaped black
9 spots and a deep orange-brown border, and hind wings that are
10 a unique velvety, iridescent blue-black with cream and orange
11 spots; and

12 WHEREAS, the regal fritillary has statewide distribution,
13 making it possible for Iowans to see adults flying in summer
14 and early fall in association with native prairie habitats
15 including upland and wet prairies; and

16 WHEREAS, the regal fritillary is a univoltine species,
17 meaning it takes one year for a single brood to complete the
18 four stages of its life cycle; and

19 WHEREAS, in the fall the female regal fritillary may lay up
20 to two thousand eggs on the ground near the growing point of
21 their host plant; and

22 WHEREAS, soon after being laid the eggs hatch and the first
23 instar larvae eat only their eggshells before hibernating and
24 surviving the winter in their smallest form; and

25 WHEREAS, in spring when the prairie violets, bird's-foot
26 violets, and other native violets begin to grow the larvae come
27 out of winter diapause or dormancy to have their first host
28 plant meal; and

29 WHEREAS, most butterfly larvae have five larval instars,
30 or growth stages, the regal fritillary is unique in that it
31 completes six instars before it makes a chrysalis; and

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32 WHEREAS, the adults live one to three months and feed
33 on nectar, mostly from milkweeds, thistles, blazing stars,
34 coneflowers, and ironweeds; and

35 WHEREAS, although the historic range of the regal fritillary
36 covered the midwest, great plains, and the northeastern United
37 States, habitat losses east of the Mississippi river have
38 shifted its presence, placing Iowa in the core of its current
39 range; and

40 WHEREAS, as efforts are being made in the state to preserve
41 prairies and reestablish grassland habitats, the regal
42 fritillary is the perfect symbol to represent the prairie
43 heritage of Iowa, and the disappearance of this butterfly from
44 the state would be a tremendous loss; and

45 WHEREAS, the General Assembly supports efforts to designate
46 the regal fritillary as the state insect and raise awareness of
47 all native butterflies and insects in the state; NOW THEREFORE,
48 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. STATE INSECT DESIGNATED. The regal fritillary
2 (*Speyeria idalia*) is designated and shall be officially known
3 as the 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 regal fritillary
7 and shall display the pictures and representations in an
8 appropriate place in the state historical museum.

9 Sec. 3. OFFICIAL REGISTER. The legislative services agency
10 shall include an appropriate picture and commentary of the
11 regal fritillary 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 regal fritillary as the
18 official state insect of Iowa. The director of the department
19 of cultural affairs is required to obtain pictures and other
20 appropriate representations of the regal fritillary and display
21 the pictures and information in the state historical museum.
22 The legislative services agency is required to include in the
23 Iowa official register a picture of the regal fritillary along
24 with pictures of the state rock, state bird, state tree, and
25 state flower.