

**Senate Study Bill 3187 - Introduced**

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
STATE GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION  
BY CHAIRPERSON SMITH)

**SENATE 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 4,500 Iowa beekeepers manage around  
18 45,000 colonies of honeybees that produce over 4 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, honeybee pollination is critical to plant and human  
24 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.