

# House Joint Resolution 2001 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2001  
BY WILLS

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

3 WHEREAS, the Iowa darter (*etheostoma exile*) is the only fish  
4 that is named after the state of Iowa. No other plant or animal  
5 bears Iowa in its name. Originally thought to be endemic to  
6 Iowa, the Iowa darter was discovered in Iowa and documented as  
7 early as 1889; and

8 WHEREAS, the Iowa darter is one of the most colorful and  
9 beautiful fish in Iowa. This vibrant fish is representative  
10 of the native fish diversity in the state of Iowa and of its  
11 varied residents. Growing to about 2.5 inches long, the Iowa  
12 darter is bright green with dark brown blotches and small red  
13 spots on the sides, its belly fading to yellow or gold and  
14 white. There is great variability in coloration of an Iowa  
15 darter, making it one of the most unique fish in the state of  
16 Iowa; and

17 WHEREAS, the Iowa darter lives in clear, sluggish, vegetated  
18 streams and weedy areas of glacial lakes, marshes, and ponds.  
19 The Iowa darter is most abundant in the natural lakes in Iowa  
20 but can be found in rivers and streams in northern Iowa, as  
21 well as the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. The Iowa darter  
22 loves clean water and is an indicator of better water quality.  
23 The Iowa darter is a symbol of Iowa's greatest habitat and  
24 water quality challenges. The Iowa darter prefers clean water  
25 just like many other residents of the state of Iowa; and

26 WHEREAS, the Iowa darter is a glacial relict species that  
27 can withstand colder water temperatures and thus cold tolerance  
28 characterizes the species. Much like the residents of Iowa,  
29 the Iowa darter is cold hardy and prepared for all seasons; and

30 WHEREAS, the Iowa darter is aptly named as a darter fish  
31 as the fish dart from locality to locality and then secure

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32 themselves against the water flow. The Iowa darter is a  
33 predator with quick reaction time and an uncanny ability to  
34 camouflage; NOW THEREFORE,  
35 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. STATE FISH DESIGNATED. The Iowa darter  
2 (*etheostoma exile*) is designated and shall be officially known  
3 as the state fish of Iowa.

4 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS. The director of the  
5 department of administrative services shall obtain appropriate  
6 pictures and other representations of the Iowa darter 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 Iowa darter in the Iowa official register, along with  
12 the pictures of the state rock, state flower, state bird, and  
13 state 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 Iowa darter as the  
18 official state fish of Iowa. The director of the department  
19 of administrative services shall obtain pictures and other  
20 appropriate representations of the state fish and display the  
21 pictures and information in the state historical museum. The  
22 editor of the Iowa official register shall include a picture  
23 of the state fish along with pictures of the state rock, state  
24 flower, state bird, and state tree.