

House Joint Resolution 4 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4
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1 A Joint Resolution designating the regal fritillary as the
2 official state butterfly 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 exceed
5 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 and
14 early fall in association with native prairie habitats including
15 upland and wet prairies; and

16 WHEREAS, the regal fritillary is a univoltine species, meaning
17 it takes one year for a single brood to complete the four stages
18 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 plant
28 meal; and

29 WHEREAS, while most butterfly larvae have five larval instars,
30 or growth stages, the regal fritillary is unique in that it

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1 completes six instars before it makes a chrysalis; and

2 WHEREAS, the adults live one to three months and feed on
3 nectar, mostly from thistles, blazing stars, coneflowers, and
4 ironweeds; and

5 WHEREAS, although the historic range of the regal fritillary
6 covered the midwest, great plains, and the northeastern United
7 States, habitat losses east of the Mississippi river have shifted
8 its presence, placing Iowa in the core of its current range; and

9 WHEREAS, as efforts are being made in the state to preserve
10 prairies and reestablish grassland habitats, the regal fritillary
11 is the perfect symbol to represent the prairie heritage of Iowa,
12 and the disappearance of this butterfly from the state would be a
13 tremendous loss; and

14 WHEREAS, the general assembly supports efforts to designate
15 the regal fritillary as the state butterfly and raise awareness
16 of all native butterflies and insects in the state; NOW

17 THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. STATE BUTTERFLY DESIGNATED. The regal fritillary
2 (*Speyeria idalia*) is designated and shall be officially known as
3 the state butterfly 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 regal fritillary and
7 shall 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 of
11 the regal fritillary 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 regal fritillary as the
18 official state butterfly of Iowa. The director of the department
19 of administrative services is required to obtain pictures and
20 other appropriate representations of the regal fritillary and
21 display the pictures and information in the state historical
22 museum. The editor of the Iowa official register is required
23 to include in the Iowa official register a picture of the regal
24 fritillary along with pictures of the state rock, state bird,
25 state tree, and state flower.