

Legislative Analysis



BLACK SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY AS OFFICIAL STATE BUTTERFLY

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4159 as introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Julie Brixie

Committee: Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation

Complete to 5-17-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4159 would create an act to designate the black swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio polyxenes*) as Michigan's official state butterfly. It would take effect 90 days after enactment.

BACKGROUND:

Bills to designate the black swallowtail butterfly as the official state butterfly have been introduced in several recent legislative sessions.¹

Michigan is currently represented by many official state symbols, including the following:

- Bird: American robin
- Fish: brook trout
- Flower: apple blossom
- Game mammal: white-tailed deer
- Reptile: painted turtle
- Stone: Petoskey stone
- Tree: eastern white pine
- Wildflower: dwarf lake iris



Black swallowtail butterfly

According to the Smithsonian Institution, 48 states have named an official state insect or butterfly. Michigan and Iowa are the two states without such a designation. Supporters of naming the black swallowtail butterfly as the state butterfly say this species is deserving of the title because it resides in Michigan year-round, it can be found throughout the state, and it is a pollinating insect which contributes to the success of native Michigan plants.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4159 would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ HB 5642 of 2021-22, HB 4314 and SB 167 of 2019-20, SB 298 of 2017-18, SB 850 of 2015-16, and HB 6094 of 2013-14.