

Legislative Analysis



BLACK SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY AS OFFICIAL STATE BUTTERFLY

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4159 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Julie Brixie
Committee: Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation
Complete to 6-13-23

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 every legislative session since 2013-14.

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.

POSITIONS:

The following individuals testified in support of House Bill 4159 (5-18-23):

- A representative of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Students from Okemos Public Montessori at Central

The following entities indicated support for House Bill 4159:

- The Nature Conservancy (5-25-23)
- Sierra Club Michigan Chapter (5-25-23)
- Kalamazoo Nature Center and Michigan Butterfly Network (5-18-23)
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters (5-18-23)

- Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association (5-18-23)
- Anishinaabek Caucus (5-18-23)
- Bees in the D (5-18-23)
- Sweetwater Evening Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Pentwater Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Touch the Earth Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Indian Hills Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Charlevoix Evening Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Petoskey Area Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Portage Lake Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Holland Garden Club (5-18-23)
- River Valley Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Petal Pushers Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Garden Club of Dearborn (5-18-23)
- Looking Glass Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Grow and Show Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Dirt Dauber Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Taylor Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Edelweiss Garden Club of Gaylord (5-18-23)
- Western Hills Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Meek Mill Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Parchment Meek Mill Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Portage Meek Mill Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Kalamazoo Garden Council (5-18-23)
- Kalamazoo Garden Club (5-18-23)
- The Friendly Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Junior League Gardeners Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Farmington Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Milan Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Eden's Garden Club of Monroe (5-18-23)
- Gardenettes Garden Club (5-18-23)
- DeWitt Millennium Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Rockford Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Port Sanilac Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Tri-Cities Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Morenci Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Wayne County Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Marshall Area Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Little Garden Club (5-18-23)
- Meridian Garden Club (5-18-23)

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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.