

HB 1833 -- OFFICIAL STATE INVERTEBRATE

SPONSOR: Wood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Tourism by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill designates the crayfish, also known as the crawfish or crawdad, as the official state invertebrate.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the crayfish is found in all Missouri counties and the rivers, lakes, and creeks of this state. Crayfish are among the largest and most important invertebrates in Missouri's waterways and are also an important source of food for many of Missouri's sport fish, including the smallmouth bass and the goggle-eye. Missouri should be proud of the crayfish and by designating it as the official state invertebrate will encourage Missourians to learn more about it.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wood; Janna Elfrink, Reeds Spring Intermediate School; and Andrea Studer, Cody Bassett, Kylie Bassham, and Austin Selby, Reeds Spring Intermediate School students.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that 10% of all crayfish species can be found in Missouri. They are very important to nature and the food chain and are called a "keystone species" because if they disappear, nature would suffer a great loss.

Others testifying on the bill was Department of Conservation.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst