

HCS HB 272 -- OFFICIAL STATE REPTILE

SPONSOR: Marsh (Viebrock)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute designates the three-toed box turtle as the official state reptile.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the three-toed box turtle is the most common turtle in Missouri, and it is a native species which makes it an ideal choice as the official state reptile.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Viebrock.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the three-toed box turtle is found throughout Missouri, except in the extreme northwest corner of the state. It's commonly found in a variety of woodland habitats. This turtle is long-lived, and many people saw them as children when they first began exploring nature making it an ideal choice as the official state reptile.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Conservation.