

HB 407 -- OFFICIAL STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES

SPONSOR: Justus

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill designates *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*, also known as the hellbender salamander, snot otter, or lasagna lizard, as the official endangered species of Missouri.

This bill is the same as HB 2425 (2018).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is an important endangered indicator species, and not particularly attractive. They would like to promote recognition of this species so that citizens and visitors to Missouri know not to harm or interfere with them if they are encountered in our waterways.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Justus; David Jackson, Saint Louis Zoo; Cameron Gehlert; and Lauren Augustine.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.