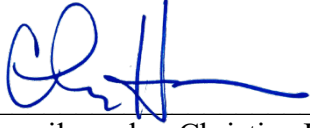


1 Brianne K. Nadeau

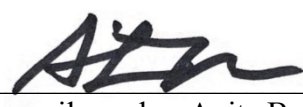
2 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

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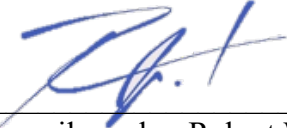
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6 Councilmember Christina Henderson

Janeese Lewis George

Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Robert White

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15 A BILL

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19 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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24 To designate the Red-backed Salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*, as the official state amphibian of
25 the District of Columbia.

26
27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may
28 be cited as the “Red-backed Salamander Official State Amphibian Designation Act of
29 2024”.

30 Sec. 2. Official amphibian of the District of Colombia.

31 (a) The Red-backed Salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*, is a species of salamander, in
32 the order of amphibians, found throughout the Eastern and Appalachian regions of the United
33 States, including in most wooded areas in the District of Columbia.

34 (b) Red-backed Salamanders eat bugs, which helps control pests and maintain the
35 balance of the ecosystem.

36 (c) Red-backed Salamanders contribute to nutrient cycling by consuming organic

37 matter and releasing nutrients back into the soil through their waste, which helps maintain soil
38 fertility and supports the growth of plants in the forest.

39 (d) Red-backed Salamanders are important food for snakes, birds, and mammals.

40 (e) Red-backed Salamander burrows provide shelter for a variety of small animals,
41 including insects, spiders, and other invertebrates.

42 (f) Red-backed Salamanders' presence and abundance are indicators of healthy and
43 mature eastern forest ecosystems.

44 (g) The Red-Backed Salamander is increasingly recognized as a model organism for
45 a variety of biological subdisciplines, including terrestrial ecology, amphibian ecology,
46 evolutionary biology, regeneration, ecotoxicology, and animal behavior, in part due to its
47 ubiquity and abundance throughout northeastern North America.

48 (h) Red-back Salamanders' red stripes emulate the red horizontal bars on the District
49 of Columbia's flag.

50 (i) The Red-backed Salamander has good friends at Powell Elementary School, who
51 studied the Red-backed Salamander and proposed that the Council adopt the Red-backed
52 Salamander as the official state amphibian of the District of Columbia.

53 (j) The Red-backed Salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*, is hereby designated the
54 official amphibian of the District of Colombia.

55 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

56 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
57 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
58 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

59 Sec. 4. Effective date.

60 This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
61 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
62 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
63 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
64 Columbia Register.