

HOUSE BILL No. 1243

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 1-2-15.

Synopsis: Say's Firefly designated as state insect. Designates *Pyractomena angulata*, also known as "Say's Firefly", as the official state insect of Indiana.

Effective: July 1, 2016.

Klinker

January 11, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.



Introduced

Second Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state emblems.

Whereas, insects constitute 80% of the world's animal species and are critical to the ecological balance of our planet as decomposers, recyclers, pollinators of flowering plants, and an important food source for many animals and even some plants;

Whereas, the insect known as a "firefly" or "lightning bug" is really neither a fly nor a bug but a soft-bodied beetle that produces light through a complex chemical reaction in special cells located near the end of its abdomen;

Whereas, spectacular nighttime displays of the flashing lights of fireflies are common from June through September in the croplands, roadsides, grasslands, and forests of the eastern United States from the Missouri River to the Atlantic Ocean;

Whereas, male fireflies flash their lights in a series of short or long bursts to impress female fireflies, and receptive females respond with flashes of their own;

Whereas, Hoosiers have long enjoyed the beauty and mystique of firefly displays, which inspired James Whitcomb Riley to write:

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*"The fireflies, like golden seeds,
Are sown about the night."*

Whereas, Thomas Say, an eminent naturalist who lived and worked in New Harmony in Posey County and is considered the Father of American Entomology, named "Say's Firefly" in 1824; and

Whereas, the designation of a state insect would provide a unique teaching opportunity for educators and a point of pride for citizens of Indiana: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 1-2-15 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2016]:
4 **Chapter 15. State Insect**
5 **Sec. 1. *Pyractomena angulata*, also known as "Say's Firefly", is**
6 **designated as the official state insect of Indiana.**

