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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1316 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, PEIFER, FLYNN, GINGRICH, MILLARD, MAJOR,  
PICKETT, V. BROWN, KORTZ, MARSHALL, SWANGER, COHEN, D. COSTA,  
DENLINGER, EVERETT AND BENNINGHOFF, MAY 6, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 6, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Designating the Eastern Timber Rattlesnake as the Official  
2 Reptile of this Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, The Eastern Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*  
4 *horridus*) is a large and venomous snake known to reach lengths  
5 of over 55 inches in this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Timber rattlesnakes have been recorded in 53 of  
7 Pennsylvania's 67 counties, from the Pocono Plateau of the  
8 northeast, the Appalachian range from the southcentral counties  
9 through the northcentral and northeastern counties, the  
10 Allegheny Plateau of the northwest and the Laurel Highlands in  
11 the southwest; and

12 WHEREAS, The snake prefers higher-elevation woodlands with a  
13 diversity of habitat types, including stream corridors,  
14 blueberry thickets, rocky outcrops, reverting clear cuts, open  
15 meadows and utility rights-of-way.

16 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
17 hereby enacts as follows:

1 Section 1. Official State Reptile.

2 The Eastern Timber Rattlesnake is selected, designated and  
3 adopted as the official reptile of the Commonwealth of  
4 Pennsylvania.

5 Section 2. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect immediately.