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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 73

Session of  
2001

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INTRODUCED BY SCRIMENTI, CREIGHTON, HORSEY, LAUGHLIN,  
YOUNGBLOOD, CRUZ, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPABIANCA, JOSEPHS, HARHAI,  
SOLOBAY, JAMES, PIPPY, WASHINGTON, HUTCHINSON, BEBKO-JONES,  
M. COHEN, COLEMAN, DALEY AND STEELMAN, MARCH 7, 2001

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 7, 2001

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A RESOLUTION

1 Selecting, designating and adopting the Eastern Box Turtle  
2 (Terrapene carolina carolina) as the official reptile of the  
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The Eastern Box Turtle is one of the most common  
5 turtles seen in this Commonwealth with a range that spans over  
6 most of this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, The Eastern Box Turtle has a mild disposition, and  
8 many residents have selected it as a pet; and

9 WHEREAS, This species is easily recognizable because of its  
10 sharply rising dome-shaped upper shell and is the only turtle in  
11 this Commonwealth that has a single broad, movable hinge  
12 allowing it to close tightly and protect it from predators; and

13 WHEREAS, The Eastern Box Turtle is primarily a terrestrial  
14 animal and has a long life span of 40 to 100 years, spending  
15 most of its life living in a small home range; and

16 WHEREAS, Due to development of its natural habitat, the  
17 Eastern Box Turtle is currently decreasing in numbers.

1       The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
2 hereby enacts as follows:

3 Section 1. State reptile.

4       The Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) is  
5 hereby selected, designated and adopted as the official reptile  
6 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

7 Section 2. Effective date.

8       This act shall take effect immediately.