
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 621 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY CURRY, BEYER, BRENNAN, DIGIROLAMO, FLECK, GEIST,
HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HUTCHINSON, McCALL, MELIO,
M. O'BRIEN, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, VULAKOVICH, YOUNGBLOOD AND
MURT, FEBRUARY 26, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 26, 2009

AN ACT

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

4 WHEREAS, Turtles have lived on Earth for over 250 million
5 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Reptiles, such as the Eastern Box Turtle, have lived
7 in abundance in Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, The scientific name for the Eastern Box Turtle is
9 Terrapene carolina carolina; and

10 WHEREAS, The Eastern Box Turtle was given the name of "box
11 turtle" for its unique ability to hinge its lower shell and pull
12 its entire body into its shell, sealing itself tighter than a
13 box; and

14 WHEREAS, Recently, the number of Eastern Box Turtles in
15 Pennsylvania has begun to decrease; and

16 WHEREAS, The loss of habitat, pollution, being taken for the
17 retail pet trade, killed by vehicles, predators eating turtle

1 eggs, and the inability to locate mates have severely decreased
2 the Pennsylvania turtle population; and

3 WHEREAS, By raising the awareness of the Eastern Box Turtle's
4 plight, we can save the Eastern Box Turtle and other reptiles in
5 Pennsylvania.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Designation of the official reptile of the
9 Commonwealth.

10 The Eastern Box Turtle or *Terrapene carolina carolina* is
11 hereby selected, designated and adopted as the official reptile
12 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

13 Section 2. Effective date.

14 This act shall take effect immediately.