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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1623 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY TOOHL, BOBACK, PICKETT, FEE, LABS, SANCHEZ,  
STEPHENS, SHUSTERMAN, HOWARD, PENNYCUICK AND FITZGERALD,  
JUNE 14, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 14, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Designating the Regal Fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*) as  
2 the official State butterfly of the Commonwealth of  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Findings and declarations.

7 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

8 (1) The Regal Fritillary butterfly is a striking orange  
9 and black butterfly that is found primarily in the mixed-  
10 grass prairies of the east central region of the United  
11 States.

12 (2) This beautiful butterfly has characteristically deep  
13 orange forewings and dark hindwings.

14 (3) The Regal Fritillary butterfly was once common  
15 throughout the northeastern region of the United States, but  
16 is now extirpated or critically endangered in much of this  
17 region.

1           (4) A large population of Regal Fritillary butterflies  
2 make their home on the property of the Fort Indiantown Gap  
3 National Guard Training Center.

4           (5) According to the Department of Military and Veterans  
5 Affairs, this population consists of approximately 1,000  
6 adult Regal Fritillary butterflies and represents the largest  
7 population of the species east of Indiana.

8           (6) The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs also  
9 asserts that this population of Regal Fritillary butterflies  
10 is the largest documented population on a single landholding  
11 in North America.

12           (7) Fort Indiantown Gap has set aside 219 acres of  
13 training areas and ranges to conduct research on the habits  
14 of the Regal Fritillary butterflies and actively maintains  
15 this important property for the benefit of the butterflies.

16           (8) Public tours of the habitat are now being conducted.

17           (9) Designating the Regal Fritillary butterfly as the  
18 official butterfly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
19 highlights the striking beauty of the species.

20           (10) Designating the Regal Fritillary butterfly as the  
21 official butterfly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will  
22 also bring attention to the Commonwealth's important role in  
23 maintaining a crucial habitat for this butterfly.

24 Section 2. Official State butterfly.

25           The Regal Fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*) is hereby  
26 designated as the official butterfly of the Commonwealth of  
27 Pennsylvania.

28 Section 3. Effective date.

29           This act shall take effect immediately.