Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 9, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Environment and Agriculture to which was referred HB 318,

AN ACT proclaiming the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire. Having considered the same, report the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Megan Murray

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Environment and Agriculture**
Bill Number:	**HB 318**
Title:	**proclaiming the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire.**
Date:	**February 9, 2021**
Consent Calendar:	**CONSENT**
Recommendation:	**OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill will make the Daring Jumping Spider the state spider of New Hampshire. The third-grade students of the Hollis Primary School did an exemplary job of educating the committee on the attributes of this spider and its importance to New Hampshire's ecosystem. The committee commends the outreach of the Fish and Game Department as the inspiration for this project derived from a workshop they hosted.

Vote 18-0.

Rep. Megan Murray
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Environment and Agriculture

HB 318, proclaiming the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Megan Murray for Environment and Agriculture. This bill will make the Daring Jumping Spider the state spider of New Hampshire. The third-grade students of the Hollis Primary School did an exemplary job of educating the committee on the attributes of this spider and its importance to New Hampshire's ecosystem. The committee commends the outreach of the Fish and Game Department as the inspiration for this project derived from a workshop they hosted. **Vote 18-0.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 318

BILL TITLE: proclaiming the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire.

DATE: February 3, 2021

LOB ROOM: Hybrid

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. M. Murray Seconded by Rep. Homola Vote: 18-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Barbara Comtois, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB318

BILL TITLE:

DATE: 2/3/2021

LOB ROOM:

MOTION: (Please check one box)

❹OTP ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*
☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____MURRAY_____Seconded by Rep. ___Homola_____ Vote: 18-0

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*
☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*
☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*
☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: ___X_ YES _____ NO

Minority Report? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: _____Barbara Comtois_____
Rep Barbara Comtois, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/22/2021 9:57:30 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2021 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: HB318 **Motion:** OTP **AM #:** _____ **Exec Session Date:** 2/3/21

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Pearl, Howard C. Chairman	X		
Aron, Judy F. Vice Chairman	X		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	X		
Verville, Kevin G.	X		
Davis, Arnold G.	X		
Stapleton, Walter A.	X		
Homola, Susan	X		
Kennedy, Margaret Anne	X		
Mason, James L.	X		
Sanborn, Gail E.	X		
Bixby, Peter W.	X		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.	X		
Bouldin, Andrew J.	X		
Dutzy, Sherry	X		
Murray, Megan A.	X		
Von Plinsky, Sparky	X		
~~Caplan, Tony~~			X
Hyland, Stephanie M.	X		
Perez, Maria	X		
TOTAL VOTE:	18	0	

Public Hearing

House Remote Testify

Environment and Agriculture Committee Testify List for Bill HB318 on 2021-01-27

Support: 8 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 7

Export to Excel

Name	City, State Email Address	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Non-Germane	Signed Up
Seiden, Geoffrey	kenseiden@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/25/2021 2:04 PM
Happy, Tara	tara.happy@sau41.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/25/2021 2:44 PM
Laine, Nora	shannonlaine.mtbc@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/25/2021 4:07 PM
McGhee, Kat	Kat.mcghee@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 27	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/25/2021 5:19 PM
Constantian, Chloe	Kconstantian@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/25/2021 6:04 PM
Constantian, Eva	Kconstantian@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/25/2021 6:06 PM
Izbicki, Paula	paula.izbicki@sau41.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/26/2021 12:52 PM
Rathbun, Eric	ericsrathbun@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/26/2021 9:05 PM

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC HEARING ON

BILL TITLE: AN ACT proclaiming the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire.

DATE: **January 27, 2021**

ROOM: **Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 2:15 pm**

Time Adjourned: 2:45 p.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Comtois, Verville, Davis, Stapleton, Homola, Kennedy, Mason, G. Sanborn, Bixby, Sofikitis, Andrew Bouldin, Dutzy, M. Murray, Von Plinsky, Caplan, Hyland and Perez

Bill Sponsors: Rep. McGhee, Hills. 27

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

*

*Rep. McGhee – introducing bill – this is introduced on behalf of students in Hollis Primary School – 3rd graders – will include official name –

*Tara Happy – 3rd grade teacher – environmental science teacher at Primary school – not a fan of spiders but after teaching appreciated them more and became less afraid of them and making students less afraid of them – researched some spiders and then proceeded to vote it is a hunting spider – it represents NH – hunt and explore – it really is all about how things are presented

*Chloe Constantian – student – Hollis Primary School – NH does not currently have s state spider – we spent a lot of time looking and learning about spiders –

*Eva Constantian – student – in my class we looked for spiders, but did not find any but found spider webs, we had a choice between 4 spiders – the daring jumping spider had the most votes

*Nora Laine – student – 8 yrs. old in 3rd grade – NC is the only state that has a State Spider – we want people to know how important they are to our environment – spiders are really mighty – they have a superpower and can jump 26x their body size –

*Geoffrey Seiden – student – he is cute and colorful like NH trees in autumn – they like to be free just like NH citizens – very resilient to the cold – we can also make some money by selling keychains and other items

*Paula Izbicki – Principal – Hollis Primary School – very proud of students – we are very unique and have an environmental science teacher Ms. Happy – they have researched these spiders – Pre-K through 3rd grade voted on this – they do in person learning – all living things have a purpose –

Rep Aron Q. absolutely that the work that was put forth, what is each of their favorite fact about the spider A. does not spin webs, jumps to find its food – stays strong and survives the winter – can jump very long for its size – it can make a parachute out of its web and fly away

Rep. Homola – Q. was this done by the entire 3rd grade? A. this started off as a project just for the 3rd graders, but then the entire school got involved

Rep Pearl – Q. we have an option to hold bill and then be able to vote in January 2022 to allow them to see the full process of being in Reps Hall A. they are very excited to see this thru

Rep. Murray – Q. the spider has very bright colors near its face area, any scientific reason for that A. blue-teal green iridescent –

Tara Happy – they could really use a win this year -

Testimony

Izbicki, Paula <paula.izbicki@sau41.org>
Tue 1/26/2021 1:05 PM

To:

- **~House Environment and Agriculture Committee**

Good Afternoon House Committee,
I want to thank you for taking the time to listen to these hard working students at Hollis Primary School as they nominate a State Spider. As their Principal I can attest to the hard work, research, and excitement that went into this project. We are unique in Hollis to have Environmental Science as a special in our school. By learning about their environment through this class, students here are vested in taking care of and learning more about the environment in which we live. They researched spiders, presented their findings to our prek - 3 students, and held an election to choose which one would be the spider of choice.

This year, school hasn't been the same. Our 3rd graders have had to look for other options for exciting school activities such as this. We have focused on kindness and compassion through Choose Love and how we support and love everyone, regardless. Our students supporting a small and somewhat "scary" creature is a really big deal because it shows just that, and they understand that all living things have a purpose.

I urge you to show these students that their hard work, lessons learned, their compassion and understanding have not gone unnoticed. Support their hard work and passion.

I am so proud of them.
Regards,
Paula Izbicki

--
Paula A. Izbicki
Principal
Hollis Primary School

Website: Hollis Primary School

Twitter Handle: @HollisPrimary

N.H. has a state tree, flower and fruit – why not a state spider?



- A female daring jumping spider. Courtesy of David Hill

By ETHAN DeWITT
Monitor staff
Published: 12/6/2020 4:52:28 PM

The daring jumping spider hunts without a web.
The quarter-sized little arachnid doesn't need one. He jumps from perch to perch, grabbing prey by surprise. He latches strong webbing to walls and branches to support him as he jumps, not unlike Peter Parker or Miles Morales.
He's small but fearless, and common to many New England backyards. And he could soon be New Hampshire's official state spider.

An elementary school in Hollis has chosen the daring jumping spider to be awarded that honor, selecting him from four nominees in an election held this month.
And a local lawmaker, Rep. Kat McGhee, has put forward a bill to make it officially happen.

For the students and staff, the daring jumping spider is a winning candidate.

“He’s very brave but he makes very safe choices,” said Tara Happy, the environmental science teacher who taught the spider unit to her third-grade class in October and oversaw the school election. “He can jump super far. (The students) thought that was cool. He doesn’t die in the winter, obviously willing to withstand our New Hampshire winters. He just hangs out and waits for warmer weather. He doesn’t bite people very often, but if he does he’s not harmful to people.”

He’s also adorably small, the size (and shape) of a large button.

The idea sprung from an online teaching workshop from New Hampshire Fish and Game that centered on spiders. The concept was clear: Spiders provoke fear in adults and children alike – what if studying them could help reduce that fear?

Happy wasn’t the biggest fan of spiders, personally. “They’re scary,” she said. “I mean I know they’re important for the environment.”

But by the end of the workshop, she had broadened her views on the creatures and uncovered an unlikely appreciation. It was a liberating feeling, she said, that she wanted to pass on to her students as well.

Happy teaches kindergarten through the third grade, but she figured third graders would be the most receptive to the spider. She drafted up an October-themed spider unit to pass on the experience. “Maybe they would grow up not hating spiders,” she said.

The teaching began as a simple environmental science lesson. Happy covered the basics: what spiders do, how they cast webs, and why they’re important to the ecosystem. Then the class discovered that New Hampshire lacks a state spider of its own. The uproar was immediate.

“That instantly turned into ‘Well that’s not fair,’” Happy said. “Just because a spider is different and little and different and kind of scary doesn’t mean that it doesn’t deserve to be recognized.”

For Happy, teaching a new unit on spiders required a new level of creativity at a time of coronavirus. With a number of Hollis students opting to learn remotely, she held some classes over Zoom and others in person. Students at home were asked to explore their own backyards for spiders and take pictures; those at school did so as a group.

Soon the lessons began to transcend the topic itself. What began as an exploration of an uncomfortable topic ended as an object lesson in kindness, acceptance and forgiveness.

It didn't take much from there to nudge the students into a new project: picking a state spider themselves.
After a flurry of research, the class narrowed it down to four candidates.

There was the goldenrod crab spider, a small yellow and white spider that camps out on flours for insects; the woodlouse hunter spider, an orange and yellow spider that hunts woodlice at night; the black and yellow garden spider, which builds and rebuilds an elaborate web every night; and the daring jumping spider.

Happy just had one rule: "We did talk about how you can't just vote for a spider because you think it's cute," she said. There had to be more meaningful reasons.
By early November, the election season in the school began to mirror the one across the country.

Third-grade supporters of each of the spider candidates made speeches to the other classes, tailoring their pitches room by room. Classrooms took their votes as a whole, and Happy colored in a map of the school with room-by-room results as they came in.

There were even "mail-in" ballots, of sorts. Students learning at home had the option to vote via Google form.
And true to 2020, even by late November, not all the ballots from the classrooms had been fully counted. But Happy said there was enough to project a clear winner.

And so, the spider named on the bill heading to the New Hampshire House next year is the daring jumping spider.
For McGhee, a Democrat, the decision to sponsor the bill was an easy one.

"It does kind of stand out, doesn't it?" she said. "When I sent it in to the Office of Legislative Services, I said 'Here it is, the (bill) you've been waiting for!'"

The representative acknowledges there could be hurdles. Maybe some representatives propose their own favorite spider. Maybe the effort falls short on the House floor, not unlike an infamous red-tailed hawk bill in 2015.
But to Happy, even if there are legislative mishaps, the kids' experience will be valuable either way. The passion is certainly there. Already, there's a dedicated subgroup of third graders committed to seeing the effort through: "Team Spider."

"It's tough to be a kid right now," Happy said. "This year hasn't been exactly all that fun."

But, she added, "It was just really cute to watch them kind of sticking up for something that was little and scary and that they didn't know about. And they just gave it a chance and learned that it wasn't that bad."

(Ethan DeWitt can be reached at 369-3307, edewitt@cmonitor.com, or on Twitter at @edewittNH.)

Daring Jumping Spider, *Phidippus audax*
Hollis Primary School - State Spider Petition



Adult Daring Jumping Spider



Daring Jumping spiders have orange spots as juveniles. These later turn white.



The "cute pose" of the Daring Jumping spider.

Hi, our names are Chloe and Eva. We are from Hollis Primary School and we are here to prove our point on why we think that the Daring Jumping Spider should be New Hampshire's state spider.

New Hampshire doesn't have a state spider yet, and our school thinks we should have one. Our environmental science teacher, Mrs. Happy, discovered that New Hampshire does not have a state slider. We all think that is should. Mrs. Happy talked to a state representative and she thought it would be a good idea too! We spent time learning about spiders and we even went outside and looked for spiders!

I think that the Daring Jumping Spider should be New Hampshire's state spider. Mrs. Happy, our teacher, went to every class and had them vote on which spider they wanted. Every student had the choice between 4 spiders. We got to see a slide show of the four choices. Every class in the whole school voted and the Daring Jumping Spider had the most votes.

Some people are afraid of spiders, like me, and since the daring jumping is cute it is not as scary, which is why I voted for the daring jumping spider, but I'm not quite sure about everybody else! I'm glad it won because I was hoping that the daring jumping spider would win! Everyone at HPS is very excited to see if the Daring Jumping Spider will become New Hampshire's state spider! Hollis Primary School picked the daring jumping spider as New Hampshire state spider, and we hope you will too!!

Eva and Chloe Constantian
4 Blacksmith Lane, Hollis, NH 03049
Submitted with permission by Kori Constantian, mother.

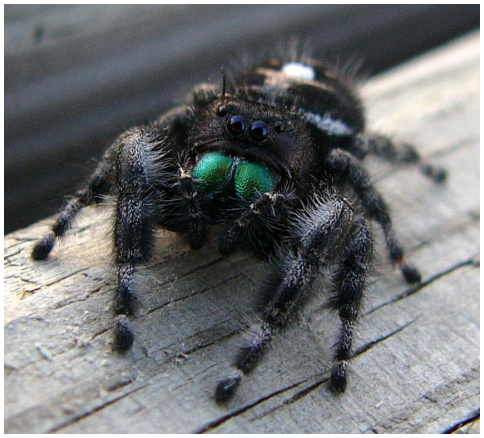
State Spider Testimonial

Dear State Representative,

I think we should have a state spider. I don't know why we don't have one. Is it because they look scary or they seem scary? I don't know, but what I do know is we should have a state spider. I mean, we have a state vegetable! I don't even like vegetables! To me, that's just crazy talk. Our school voted on a spider and the winning one was the Daring Jumping Spider. Look at the little guy!

1. He's cute and colorful, just like New Hampshire fall foliage.
2. These guys were born weavers! They create a parachute when they are about a few hours old and when the wind catches them they fly away to a new home! They like to be free just like the people of New Hampshire.
3. Like the people of New Hampshire, Daring Jumping Spiders are resilient to the cold and snow so they survive very well in New Hampshire winters.
4. It can make money for New Hampshire on license plates, t-shirts and mugs.

So you've heard from me; now please consider (I recommend saying yes. Just my opinion). Thank you for your time.



<Our future state spider(Daring Jumping Spider)

Sincerely yours,

Geoffrey Seiden, 3rd Grade Hollis Primary School
13 Barton Road, Hollis NH

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:36:39 AM
From: Happy, Tara
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:15:16 PM
To: Walt Stapleton
Cc: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: HB318 - Response with Spider Information
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
Daring Jumping Spider - Phidippus audax.pdf NH State Spider Vote.pdf

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Dear Walt Stapleton,

Thank you for your questions! Tonight I met with a small group of VERY excited third graders from "Team Spider". We look forward to speaking with you and the committee tomorrow. The students will be able to give you more information then, but I thought I might try to answer some of your questions now.

One of the reasons the Daring Jumping Spider was chosen was because it is a hunting spider. The students favored hunting spiders opposed to spiders who spin a web and wait for their food to be caught. Students felt that the, "work hard to find food" attitude was very appropriate for New Hampshire because many of their grown ups go to work everyday to take care of their families. We also thought this went along with the Live Free portion of our state motto.

The Daring Jumping spider, despite it's small half inch size, is also capable of capturing prey larger than itself. As small, young elementary students, they admired the fact that this spider was tiny, yet surprisingly strong ...just like them.

Another benefit of the jumping spider is that it feeds on pests such as the Tarnished Plant Bug which is one of the worst insect pests that eats crops grown in New Hampshire. This Plant Bug can destroy fruit and vegetable gardens as well as flowering plants. The students unanimously wanted a spider who would protect the foods we love to eat from our local farms and even from our own gardens!

The Daring Jumping spider is also able to survive our New Hampshire winters. It doesn't die like many other common garden spiders. It becomes dormant in leaf litter or finds protection in a rock/log shelter and will become active again in the spring. This was a very important fact for us.

The daring jumping spider is found throughout New Hampshire. We wanted a spider that could live all the way into the North as well as here in Southern, NH where we live. We wanted this spider to represent the entire state.

Another point made about this spider was that it is very creative and uses a variety of hunting strategies depending on what it is hunting. The students thought this was very smart for a spider to be able to do. Students felt this was how we have to be sometimes ...ready to change and adapt to survive and try something else if we fail at first.

...and yes, of course, when looked at close up, the Daring Jumping spider's large front eyes and "fur" make it quite adorable. It is no secret that many children are afraid of spiders, but the students felt the Daring Jumping spider would be a good spokesperson for spiders and could help students who were afraid to feel more comfortable.

I have attached a few pictures of the Daring Jumping Spider as well as the slides on the Daring Jumping Spider from our voting presentation used during our spider speeches.

Thank you again for your time ...I really do sincerely thank you and the rest of the committee for taking time out of your day to listen to these students.

--

Tara Happy
Environmental Science Specialist
Hollis Primary School
Website: https://environmentalscience2020.edublogs.org/

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Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:36:39 AM
From: Kathy McGhee
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 5:41:21 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Cc: Kathy McGhee
Subject: HB 218 State Spider Bill
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
HB318 testimony.docx Concord Monitor Spider Bill Article.pdf

Dear Chairman Pearl, Ranking Member Bixby & Members of House Environment and Agriculture,

Attached please find an article on the “spider bill’ from December of this year as well as a write up
of my introduction to this bill which comes before you on Wednesday 1/27 at 2:15.

The Hollis Primary School's third grade environmental science class has chosen some excellent representatives from ’Team Spider’ to come and make the *Daring Jumping Spider’s* case to E & A.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

See you Wednesday.

Regards,

Rep. Kat McGhee, M.Ed, PMP
Deputy Ranking Member, House Science, Technology & Energy

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:36:40 AM
From: Shannon Laine
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 12:26:42 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: Re: In Support of HB318 RE: State Spider bill - Daring Jumping Spider
Importance: Normal

Hello and thank you so much for your time with the third graders yesterday.

I am not sure if you were aware, but there was an Associated Press article about their efforts.

https://apnews.com/article/science-new-hampshire-bills-legislation-spiders-52df61d7e1bf92dc87d3c672fa64fd8d

Thank you,
Shannon Laine

> On Jan 26, 2021, at 4:29 PM, Shannon Laine < shannonlaine.mtbc@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> My name is Nora Laine. I am 8 years old and in third grade at Hollis Primary School. One of my favorite classes is Environmental Science with Mrs. Happy. We've spent a lot of time this school year learning about spiders, even finding some in our school gardens! My friends got to hold them. Mrs. Happy taught us about how spiders are such an important part of the wildlife in New Hampshire.
>
> New Hampshire, like most other states, lists many insects among their state symbols. These include honeybees, butterflies, dragonflies, and ladybugs. However - South Carolina is the only state to recognize a spider as a state symbol (it's the Carolina wolf spider), in addition to a state insect. Interestingly, this was the result of the efforts of a THIRD GRADER! Now, New Hampshire 3rd graders like me want to continue to build awareness of how valuable spiders are and select one type that is a good fit for our state.
>
> A lot of people I know don't like spiders. Some people think they're scary, ugly, and annoying! This year I learned that spiders are really helpful to our environment. This is because they eat mosquitoes, flies, stink bugs, and other insects we might encounter when we spend time outside. They help keep those populations balanced, which is good for our gardens and the inside of our homes. If we didn't have spiders, it would disrupt the food chain, and the number of household pests could sky-rocket! We wouldn't want that, would we?
>
> If New Hampshire has nine state species, an official beverage (apple cider), a state dog (the chinook), a state insect (the ladybug), and nine state songs, then spiders should not be left out. Even though spiders might be small and look different from other creatures, they are really mighty, and each one has its own special talents and characteristics.

For New Hampshire, a great choice is the Jumping Spider. They are generally friendly, enjoy spending time in the garden, and they have a super power - they can jump 20-50 times their own body size! Of all the spiders in New Hampshire, the jumping spider is leaps and bounds above the rest.





Nora L
Submitted with permission of her mom

Shannon Laine
64 Broad Street
Hollis, NH 03049

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:36:40 AM
From: Shannon Laine
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:29:34 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Cc: Kathy McGhee; Happy, Tara
Subject: In Support of HB318 RE: State Spider bill - Daring Jumping Spider
Importance: Normal

My name is Nora Laine. I am 8 years old and in third grade at Hollis Primary School. One of my favorite classes is Environmental Science with Mrs. Happy. We've spent a lot of time this school year learning about spiders, even finding some in our school gardens! My friends got to hold them. Mrs. Happy taught us about how spiders are such an important part of the wildlife in New Hampshire.

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Nora L

Shannon Laine

Submitted with permission of her mom

64 Broad Street
Hollis, NH 03049

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:34:24 AM
From: Ken Seiden
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:10:56 AM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: In support of HB 318 State Spider
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
State Spider Testimonial.pdf

Attached please find written testimony in support of HB 318 State Spider.

Submitted with permission by Ken Seiden, father of Geoffrey Seiden, 13 Barton Rd, Hollis, NH

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:34:24 AM
From: Kori Constantian
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:11:42 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: In support of HB 318 State Spider
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
New Hampshire State Spider.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

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Deputy Ranking Member, House Science, Technology & Energy

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:34:24 AM
From: Happy, Tara
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 9:33:27 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Cc: Kathy McGhee
Subject: HB 318 - Thank You - Team Spider
Importance: Normal

Dear Chairman Pearl and Members of the Environment and Agriculture Committee.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their kindness and willingness to listen to our third grade students regarding the State Spider Bill. I have shared some thank you notes from the students who presented, as well as a few license plate and keychain ideas that the kids have asked me to share with you as well. :)

Here is a link to the scanned cards. I would have mailed them, but I wanted everyone to receive our appreciation. I really do sincerely thank the entire committee for taking time to listen to these students. It means a lot to us.

https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:1e41211f-0457-4f55-ac43-3c707baa49e8

...and if it helps with further discussions here are a few more bulleted points from other Team Spider students. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. I would be happy to help.

Sincerely,
Tara Happy

- The Daring Jumping spider is a hunting spider that goes out to find food, just like the people of New Hampshire have to go out and work to survive, we don't just sit down next to a web. We work hard.

- Young Daring Jumping spiders have orange spots on their backs, which look like some of our beautiful New Hampshire fall leaves have fallen on them. This happens to children in New Hampshire when we jump in leaf piles. When a spider gets older these orange spots often turn white and many older people in New Hampshire have white hair.

- Daring Jumping spider babies fly off into the world and can explore wherever they want to. Jumping spiders enjoy their freedom, just like we do. Jumping spiders must fly away to Live Free ...or they would Die because there would be too many of them in one spot. Live Free or Die is the NH motto.

- Daring Jumping spiders are brave and make huge jumps, but they always attach a web just in case. The people of NH are brave too, but still make safe choices.

- The Daring Jumping spider protects our gardens and farms. It feeds on pests like the Tarnished Plant Bug which is one of the worst insect pests that eats crops grown in New Hampshire. The evil Plant Bug can destroy fruit and vegetable gardens, but the Daring Jumping spider protects the foods we love to eat from our local farms and even from our own gardens.

- The Daring Jumping spider is able to survive our New Hampshire winters. It doesn't die like many other common garden spiders. It is tough, just like the people of New Hampshire.

- The Daring Jumping spider is really small, but can still capture prey larger than itself. Kids in New Hampshire are small, but we can do big things, like stand up for a State Spider and change history.

- The Daring Jumping spider is very creative and can hunt in many different ways. This is very smart ...especially for a little spider.

- The Daring Jumping spider is found throughout all of New Hampshire so it can represent the entire state, not just us in Hollis. This makes it fair for all of New Hampshire.

- The Daring Jumping spiders is cute and it will be a good spider to help children not be afraid of spiders. Sometimes spiders are scary, but they don't have to be.

--

Tara Happy
Environmental Science Specialist
Hollis Primary School
Website: https://environmentalscience2020.edublogs.org/

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Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:34:24 AM
From: Happy, Tara
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:45:58 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: In support of HB 318 - State Spider
Importance: Normal

Hello Chairman Pearl and Members of the Environment and Agriculture Committee,

My name is Tara Happy and I am the Environmental Science teacher at Hollis Primary School. I teach year round outdoor education to Kindergarten through third graders in Hollis, NH.

This year, as a result of an online NH Fish & Game workshop I attended, I created a week-long spider unit for third graders. I had found that after I began to learn more about spiders and the amazing things they can do, I was sincerely less afraid of them. Knowing that spiders are a common fear of children, I hoped that with some positive education on the topic I could do the same for my students and eliminate a learned fear that so many of us have. This started as an honest effort to just make children more comfortable with spiders.

What I didn't expect to happen was a school wide movement to elect a NH State Spider! After learning how important spiders are to our world, the students were a little shocked to learn that such an important species wasn't recognized with a state symbol. The kids instantly declared that it wasn't fair and that spiders deserved to be loved.

I was told small and scary things are still special to our world. It was like watching a crowd unravel as they began to cheer on the underdog of a losing football game. I had to admire their determination to help out spiders in general so off we went with the idea.

We researched some spiders, checked with Fish and Game and a local nature center to make sure we had the important species represented, and our election began. Web Spinning Spiders vs' Hunting Spiders. There were spider speeches from our four candidates and some very heated spider debates that took place in our formal forest classroom, but in the end a hunting spider, the Daring Jumping spider won. Some were happy and some were sad, but we all agreed to back up our winning spider candidate.

We felt this spider represented the spirit of New Hampshire:
- Be brave and take jumps, but hey, leave a web as you fly through the air just in case.
- Be tough and survive these long hard winters so you can eventually enjoy the warmer weather.
- Be adventurous. Hunt and explore. Don't just sit in one place and wait for food to come to you ...go get it.

All I know is I started with a class yelling "ewwwww", and by the end of the week I had them lined up in our garden waiting for a turn to hold a little black spider with their bare hands. It's all about how something is presented and today our students are going to explain how and why they love this little Daring Jumping Spider.

Thank you very much for your time with this. We all really do appreciate it!

--

Tara Happy

Environmental Science Specialist
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HB318 - Response with Spider Information

2

HT

Happy, Tara <tara.happy@sau41.org>
Tue 1/26/2021 9:15 PM

To:

- Walt Stapleton

Cc:

- **~House Environment and Agriculture Committee**

Daring Jumping Spider - Phidippus audax.pdf
293 KB

NH State Spider Vote.pdf
663 KB

2 attachments (956 KB)Download allSave all to OneDrive - The General Court of New Hampshire

Dear Walt Stapleton,

Thank you for your questions! Tonight I met with a small group of VERY excited third graders from "Team Spider". We look forward to speaking with you and the committee tomorrow. The students will be able to give you more information then, but I thought I might try to answer some of your questions now.

One of the reasons the Daring Jumping Spider was chosen was because it is a hunting spider. The students favored hunting spiders opposed to spiders who spin a web and wait for their food to be caught. Students felt that the, "work hard to find food" attitude was very appropriate for New Hampshire because many of their grown ups go to work everyday to take care of their families. We also thought this went along with the Live Free portion of our state motto.

The Daring Jumping spider, despite it's small half inch size, is also capable of capturing prey larger than itself. As small, young elementary students, they admired the fact that this spider was tiny, yet surprisingly strong ...just like them.

Another benefit of the jumping spider is that it feeds on pests such as the Tarnished Plant Bug which is one of the worst insect pests that eats crops grown in New Hampshire. This Plant Bug can destroy fruit and vegetable gardens as well as flowering plants. The students unanimously wanted a spider who would protect the foods we love to eat from our local farms and even from our own gardens!

The Daring Jumping spider is also able to survive our New Hampshire winters. It doesn't die like many other common garden spiders. It becomes dormant in leaf litter or finds protection in a rock/log shelter and will become active again in the spring. This was a very important fact for us.

The daring jumping spider is found throughout New Hampshire. We wanted a spider that could live all the way into the North as well as here in Southern, NH where we live. We wanted this spider to represent the entire state.

Another point made about this spider was that it is very creative and uses a variety of hunting strategies depending on what it is hunting. The students thought this was very smart for a spider to be able to do. Students felt this was how we have to be sometimes ...ready to change and adapt to survive and try something else if we fail at first.

...and yes, of course, when looked at close up, the Daring Jumping spider's large front eyes and "fur" make it quite adorable. It is no secret that many children are afraid of spiders, but the students felt the Daring Jumping spider would be a good spokesperson for spiders and could help students who were afraid to feel more comfortable.

I have attached a few pictures of the Daring Jumping Spider as well as the slides on the Daring Jumping Spider from our voting presentation used during our spider speeches.

Thank you again for your time ...I really do sincerely thank you and the rest of the committee for taking time out of your day to listen to these students.

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Tara Happy
Environmental Science Specialist
Hollis Primary School
Website: https://environmentalscience2020.edublogs.org/

January 27, 2021

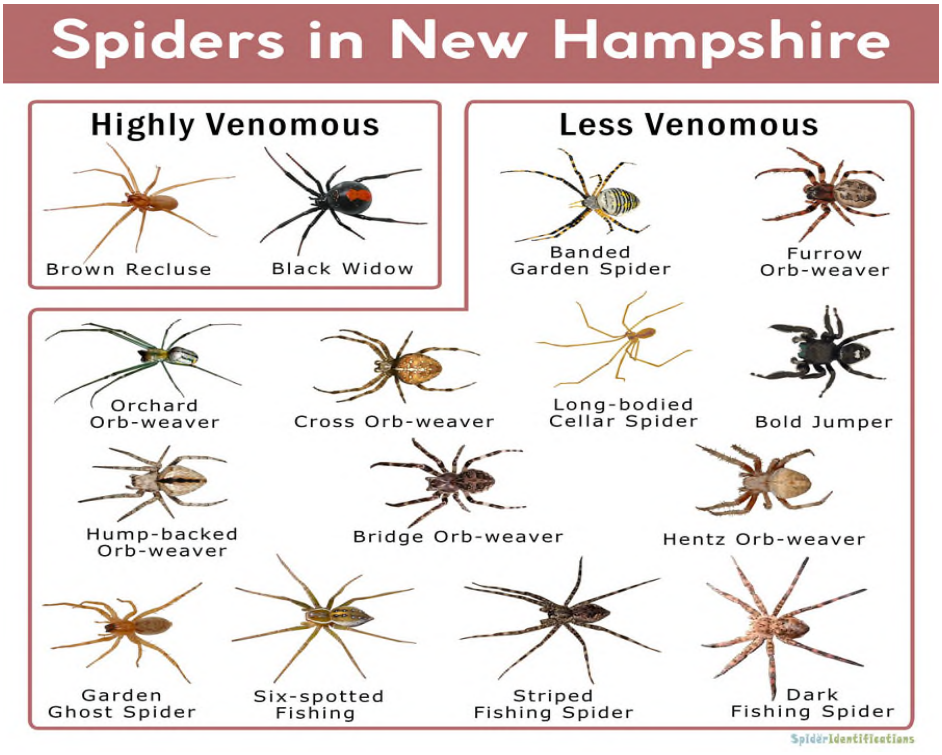
Testimony of Rep Kat McGhee on HB318 before Envrionment and Agriculture Committee

Good afternoon Chairman Pearl, Ranking Member Bixby and members of Envrionment and Agriculture. I'm Representative Kat McGhee from Hillsborough 27, Hollis and I am here today to introduce a bill on behalf of my constituents from the Hollis Primary School. Environmental Science teacher, Mrs. Happy called me up last year to ask me what it would take to submit a bill for a candidate for State Spider. I admit, this was the most unusal bill request I had this year!

We spoke for a while and I realized that Mrs Happy and her students, who are also know as 'Team Spider', some of whom you will hear from today, had embarked on a fascinating journey that ultimately led them to fight for nominating the Daring Jumping Spider (also known as Phidippus Audax) and also known as the Bold Jumping Spider.

Although the candidate for state spider is a common spider. His characteristics and unique qualities make him anything but ordinary. These students were given an assignment to research several spiders and then argue and vote for the one they thought deserved to be NH's state spider. Mrs Happy insisted her students support their arguments in favor of the spider they picked, beyond its looks. I will leave it to my constiuents: 1) , 2) , 3) , 4) 5) , to make their case as to whether House Bill 318 should be presented for a vote on the floor of the House.

I thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions, or turn you over to the experts witnesses who are signed up to speak after me.



Daring Jumping Spider - *Phidippus audax*

Helpful: Helps control insect pest populations that eat our crops

Smart: Can capture prey larger than itself; has many hunting strategies

Careful: Uses a silk thread for safety in case it falls when jumping

Tough: Survives all winter by finding shelter

Adorable: Good spokesperson for spiders



VOTE: B

Daring Jumping Spider









VOTE: B

Bill as Introduced

HB 318 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

2021 SESSION

21-0375
08/05

HOUSE BILL ***318***

AN ACT proclaiming the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Rep. McGhee, Hills. 27

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

ANALYSIS

This bill proclaims the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire.

- -

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 318 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

21-0375
08/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT proclaiming the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Section; State Spider. Amend RSA 3 by inserting after section 30 the following new section:

3:31 State Spider. The daring jumping spider (*Phidippus audax*) is hereby designated as the official state spider of New Hampshire.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.