

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Kevin Condict 271-7875

SB 30, proclaiming the Virginia opossum the state marsupial of New Hampshire.

Hearing Date: January 15, 2025

Time Opened: 9:30 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:37 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon, Altschiller and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill proclaims the Virginia opossum the state marsupial of New Hampshire.

Sponsors:

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Long

Sen. Watters

Sen. Rochefort

Sen. Reardon

Sen. Ward

Sen. Lang

Sen. Abbas

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Altschiller

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Innis

Sen. Ricciardi

Rep. M. Pearson

Rep. C. Harvey

Rep. Berch

Who supports the bill: Senator Donovan Fenton (SD10), Vivien Deal-Sosa (5th Grader), Vera Cusimano (5th Grader), Dan Bergeron (NH Fish & Game), Kurt Ehrenberg (USHS), Senator David Rochefort (SD1), Senator Daniel Innis (SD7), Senator Ruth Ward (SD6), Senator Debra Altschiller (SD24), and Senator Tara Reardon (SD15).

Who opposes the bill: None.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Donovan Fenton, Senate District 10

- Senator Fenton introduced Senate Bill 30.
- Sen. Fenton said he would let the 5th graders explain the bill. He said the opossum is the only marsupial in North America.

- Sen. Fenton explained that a 5th grade class sign a petition last year to have him submit this bill. He said the children were inspired to be a part of the process. He said this is an amazing opportunity to show young Granite Staters how to get involved. He said thanked the 5th grade class and said it is important to show them to stay engaged.

Vivien Deal-Sosa and Vera Cusimano, Chesterfield School 5th Grade Students

- Ms. Deal-Sosa said that opossums are resilient like New Hampshire citizens.
- Ms. Cusimano said opossums eat roadkill, frogs, and ticks.
- Ms. Deal-Sosa said that opossums eating ticks helps prevent New Hampshire citizens from getting Lyme Disease.
- Ms. Cusimano said the opossum is the only marsupial in the wild in New Hampshire.
- Ms. Cusimano said that becoming a state symbol would help prevent opossums becoming roadkill.

Kurt Ehrenburg, Humane Society of the United States

- Mr. Ehrenburg said the Humane Society supports the bill.

KC
Date Hearing Report completed: January 21, 2025