

HB 2425 -- STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES

SPONSOR: Alferman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill designates *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*, also known as the hellbender salamander, snot otter, or lasagna lizard, as the official endangered species of Missouri.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Missouri is the only state to be home to both types of hellbenders. By naming the hellbender as the Official Endangered Species, this bill will help bring awareness to this little known salamander.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Alferman; Missouri Canoe & Floaters Association; The Nature Conservancy; and Cameron Gehlert.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill said that the hellbender is an indicator species for the health of the streams in Missouri and when healthy can live up to 35 years.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Department of Conservation.