

ASSEMBLY, No. 2913

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 13, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MARLENE CARIDE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Gusciora, Mukherji and Singleton

SYNOPSIS

Designates Black Swallowtail butterfly as State Butterfly.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/30/2014)

A2913 CARIDE, DANCER

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- 1 **AN ACT** designating the Black Swallowtail butterfly as the New
2 Jersey State Butterfly, and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52
3 of the Revised Statutes.
4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, The Black Swallowtail butterfly is one of the most familiar
6 and most studied butterflies in North America, and is widely
7 admired for its beauty; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, The Black Swallowtail is indigenous to New Jersey, and
9 can be found in each of the State's 21 counties; and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, The Black Swallowtail is a large, black butterfly with two
11 rows of yellow spots near the margins of its forewings and
12 hindwings, and more subtle red-orange and blue markings on its
13 hindwings; and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, Adult Black Swallowtails have a wingspan of up to four
15 inches, with females typically larger than males with an iridescent
16 blue band between the yellow bands while the male has a more
17 pronounced yellow band on the hindwings with a blue cloud under
18 it; and
- 19 **WHEREAS**, The Black Swallowtail's mature caterpillar is smooth and
20 green, marked with black bands and bright yellow spots, and is
21 familiar to gardeners throughout the State; and
- 22 **WHEREAS**, The Black Swallowtail can be seen in New Jersey between
23 the months of April and October, and is most active between May
24 and July with its chrysalis overwintering in New Jersey; and
- 25 **WHEREAS**, Habitats of the Black Swallowtail are generally open areas
26 like wetlands, fields, flat-woods, pine savannahs, farms, and
27 gardens; and
- 28 **WHEREAS**, The Black Swallowtail is attracted to a variety of
29 cultivated herbs like celery, dill, parsley, and sweet fennel, as well
30 as wild herbs like Golden Alexanders and Queen Anne's lace, all
31 of which grow in New Jersey; and
- 32 **WHEREAS**, The Black Swallowtail is non-destructive to commercial
33 agriculture, and pollinates many cultivated flowers and crops; and
- 34 **WHEREAS**, The ease with which Black Swallowtails can be raised
35 from egg to adult during the school year will provide generations of
36 school children exciting opportunities to learn about butterfly life
37 cycles and expand their awareness of pollinators and the critical
38 role they play in our food supply; and
- 39 **WHEREAS**, Many states across the country have designated an official
40 State butterfly to accompany their other State symbols, but New
41 Jersey, despite its great wealth of indigenous butterflies, has never
42 made such a designation; and
- 43 **WHEREAS**, The Black Swallowtail is a fitting and proper addition to
44 New Jersey's other State symbols; and
- 45 **WHEREAS**, By designating the Black Swallowtail as the State
46 butterfly, the State government recognizes the vital roll played by
47 butterflies and other pollinators in the State's agricultural industry
48 and the ecosystem; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

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4 1. The Black Swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio polyxenes*) is
5 designated as the New Jersey State Butterfly.

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7 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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12 This bill designates the Black Swallowtail butterfly as the
13 official State Butterfly of New Jersey. This large, black, yellow and
14 blue butterfly is indigenous to New Jersey and can be found in each
15 of the State's 21 counties. The Black Swallowtail is both beautiful
16 and beneficial, pollinating many cultivated flowers and crops. For
17 generations to come, New Jersey school children can raise Black
18 Swallowtails and other butterflies in their classrooms as they have
19 done for years, thus gaining a valuable appreciation for natural
20 science. By designating a State butterfly, New Jersey joins a
21 majority of states that have made such a designation. It also
22 recognizes the important role that butterflies and other pollinators
23 play in agriculture and the ecosystem.