

# SENATE, No. 939

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Kyrillos, Gordon, P.Barnes, III, T.Kean, Pennacchio, Ruiz,  
Singer and Greenstein**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates Black Swallowtail butterfly as State Butterfly.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/1/2014)**

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.