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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 5304 (as amended by House "A")\***

#### ***AN ACT DESIGNATING THE STATE DOG AND STATE CANDY.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill designates the Siberian Husky as the state dog and the lollipop as the state candy.

It also creates a working group to study redesignating the state insect, which is currently the praying mantis. The working group must study the reasons for keeping or redesignating the current state insect and consider potential alternatives that are native to the state, such as the spring azure butterfly and autumn meadowhawk dragonfly. The group must report its findings and recommendations to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee by February 15, 2025. The report must include a recommendation on whether to redesignate the current state insect, and if so, which insect and why. The group ends once it submits the report or on February 15, 2025, whichever is later.

\*House Amendment "A" adds the provision on the state insect working group.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024, except that the provision on the state insect working group is effective upon passage.

#### **WORKING GROUP**

The bill requires the working group to consist of eight members. The House speaker must appoint two members, one of whom must be a student interested in making the spring azure butterfly the state insect, and the Senate president pro tempore must appoint two members, one of whom must be a student interested in making the autumn meadowhawk dragonfly the state insect. The House and Senate majority and minority leaders must each appoint one of the other four members. Any of the working group members may be members of the General

Assembly, all initial appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill becomes effective, and any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority.

The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the working group's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the group's first meeting within 60 days after the bill becomes effective. The GAE Committee's administrative staff must serve as the working group's administrative staff.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Related Bill***

HB 5307 (File 480), reported favorably by the GAE Committee, creates the same working group to study redesignating the state insect.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19    Nay 0    (03/22/2024)