
SENATE BILL 5599

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Patterson, Swecker and Zarelli

Read first time 01/26/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the official mammal of the state of Washington;
2 adding a new section to chapter 1.20 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the orca
5 whale, *Orcinus orca*, also known as the killer whale, is a magnificent
6 free-roaming marine creature of the Pacific Northwest, and is an icon
7 of the marine ecosystem. The state of Washington has designated an
8 official state tree, grass, flower, fruit, bird, fossil, fish, insect,
9 song, folk song, and dance, but not an official state mammal. The orca
10 is an integral part of Northwest Indian tribal culture, and no living
11 creature would be more appropriate as an official state mammal than an
12 orca whale. Children of our state are keenly aware of the importance
13 of the orca as a symbol of wildness and freedom. The legislature finds
14 that the orca are state treasures, and are deserving of recognition as
15 the official state mammal.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 1.20 RCW
17 to read as follows:

1 The orca whale, *Orcinus orca*, is designated the official mammal of
2 the state of Washington.

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