
**State Government Operations &
Accountability Committee**

HB 1759

Brief Description: Designating the orca as the state official marine mammal.

Sponsors: Representatives Appleton, Bailey, Tom, Chase, Takko, McCoy, Skinner, Sells, Darnelle, Schual-Berke, Hasegawa, Green, O'Brien, Strow, Eickmeyer, Morris, Moeller, Linville, Cody, Rodne, Morrell, Hudgins, Quall, Williams, Dunn, Campbell and Santos.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designates the orca whale as the state marine mammal.

Hearing Date: 2/16/05

Staff: Hannah Lidman (786-7291).

Background:

The Legislature has designated various plants and animals to represent and celebrate the spirit and diverse qualities of Washington State. Familiar designations include the western hemlock evergreen tree as the state tree and the rhododendron as the state flower. The Legislature has also designated a state grass, fruit, bird, fossil, fish, insect, song, folk song, gem, tartan, and arboretum.

Summary of Bill:

The Legislature intends to promote orca awareness and encourage protection of the natural marine habitat by designating the orca whale, *Orcinus orca*, as the official marine mammal of the state of Washington.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.