
SENATE BILL 5071

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senator Jacobsen

Read first time 01/12/09. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state endemic mammal; adding a new section
2 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 finds that the Olympic
5 marmot, the only endemic mammal in Washington state, should be
6 designated as the state endemic mammal. The Olympic marmot inhabits
7 the Olympic Peninsula in the western section of the state of
8 Washington. Olympic marmots hibernate from September to May. During
9 the morning and afternoon on summer days they feed and spend time
10 sunbathing on rocks. In the evening, they return to their burrow.
11 Olympic marmots are relatively easy to see during the summer months
12 along Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic National Park. Olympic marmots
13 eat herbs, grasses, and flowers. They prefer plants that are soft and
14 easy to digest. They may also eat fruits, legumes, and insects.

15 Olympic marmots are highly social and may live in groups of over
16 a dozen animals. Gregarious bonds are made between individuals in a
17 family. Olympic marmots identify each other by touching noses and
18 smelling cheeks.

1 The legislature intends to promote awareness of the Olympic marmot
2 by designating the Olympic marmot as the official endemic mammal of the
3 state of Washington.

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

6 The Olympic marmot, *Marmota olympus*, is hereby designated as the
7 official endemic mammal of the state of Washington.

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