

# Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

*Cameron Lapine 271-2104*

**HB 318**, proclaiming the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire.

**Hearing Date:** March 24, 2021

**Time Opened:** 10:02 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:22 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Carson, Reagan, Cavanaugh and Prentiss

**Members of the Committee Absent:** Senator Ricciardi

**Bill Analysis:** This bill proclaims the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. McGhee

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**Who supports the bill:** Geoffrey Seiden, Nora Laine, Eva Constantian, Chloe Constantian, Representative Kat McGhee (Hillsborough – District 27), Representative Howard Pearl (Merrimack – District 26), Tara Happy, Lucinda Hope, Ruth Larson, Richard DeMark, Kori Constantian, Shannon Laine, and Nikki Fordey.

**Who opposes the bill:** None.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None.

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Kat McGhee**

**Hillsborough – District 27**

- Representative McGhee said that she worked with Mrs. Tara Happy from the Hollis Primary School environmental science class to develop HB 318. She said that the students have embarked on a fascinating journey of ecology and elections.
- Rep. McGhee said that HB 318 was unanimously recommended out of House Environment and Agriculture on an 18-0 vote.
- Rep. McGhee said that the daring jumping spider is a common spider but has unique qualities. She said that the students researched several spiders, argued their case, and voted, saving the General Court from forming a study committee.
- Rep. McGhee said that there are several other state emblems, including the lady bug (State Insect) and the spotted newt (State Amphibian), that are recognized because some cared enough to advocate for them to become a state symbol.

## **Representative Howard Pearl**

### **Merrimack – District 26**

- Representative Pearl said that Mrs. Happy and her students did a great job. He said that he was skeptical of HB 318 going into the House hearing but that the students' presentation is a real treat.

## **Tara Happy**

### **Environmental Science Teacher, Hollis Primary School**

- Mrs. Happy said that students at Hollis Primary School had been learning in-person all year.
- Mrs. Happy said that she worked with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department on a spider unit and helped students overcome their fears of spiders.
- Mrs. Happy said that there was a school-wide movement to elect a State Spider. She said that she worked with Fish and Game as well as a local nature center and the school held speeches, debates, and an election.
- Senator Carson commended Mrs. Happy for her work and said she thought it was interesting to get children interested in spiders. She said she was ready to learn about the daring jumping spider.
- Speaking for a second time, Mrs. Happy said that "Team Spider" were an amazing group of children, speaking on behalf of the entire school. She said that the last year has been difficult for students as many things have been cancelled. She said that each student has been brave, determined, and hasn't given up.
- Senator Carson said that she did some reading on the daring jumping spider. She asked if it was more common for the daring jumping spider to have fluorescent green or fluorescent blue mouth pieces.
  - Mrs. Happy said that the colorful nature of the daring jumping spider is normally the males of the species looking for mates. She said that there is a variety, but the bolder mouths win out.
- Senator Carson said that she gardens and will now know what to look for.
  - Mrs. Happy said that the fluorescent coloring is very real.
- Senator Carson said that she could tell the students put a lot of hard work into their project and she was very pleased to see children learning how government works.

## **Chloe Constantian**

### **Hollis Primary School**

- Ms. Constantian read from her written testimony, highlighting that her class hunted for spiders in the wood and held them on sticks and that children are small, like spiders, but can do big things, like spiders.

## **Eva Constantian**

### **Hollis Primary School**

- Ms. Constantian read from her written testimony, highlighting that the daring jumping spider was chosen by a vote of the entire Hollis Primary School and the spider protects gardens and farms from bugs and pests.

**Nora Laine**

**Hollis Primary School**

- Ms. Laine read from her written testimony, highlighting that only South Carolina has a state spider, and that that effort was led by a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student, as well as that the daring jumping spider is brave but makes safe choices, like New Hampshire residents.
- Senator Carson asked if Ms. Laine had found a spider with her class.
  - Ms. Laine said that she had and her friends had held them.

**Geoffrey Seiden**

**Hollis Primary School**

- Mr. Seiden read from his written testimony, highlighting that the daring jumping spider is cute and colorful, like autumnal foliage, and is tough and resilient, like New Hampshire residents.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None.

**Neutral Information Presented:** None.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 25, 2021