

For Senator Hartwell.

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Hall <Mountaineer11@comcast.net>
Date: April 10, 2014 at 12:04:43 PM EDT
To: Patrick Berry <patrick.berry@state.vt.us>
Cc: "dave.lecours@state.vt.us" <dave.lecours@state.vt.us>
Subject: J.R. S 57 in 1994

Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta* Adopted: May 16, 1994



Vermont State Reptile: Painted Turtle
Photographer: John J. Mosesso
National Biological Information Infrastructure

Behind the adoption of the painted turtle as the state reptile of Vermont, we find elementary school students from the Cornwall School(Technically: Anna Sunderland Stowell Bingham Memorial School) in Cornwall, Vermont.

According to the resolution, the painted turtle was adopted because:

- the turtle is a hard worker and can withstand cold temperatures like the citizens of Vermont;
- its colors represent the beauty of our state in autumn;
- it adds to the state's natural diversity;
- it adds to the beauty of our ponds;
- it helps control insect pests;
- it's one of the most common turtles in Vermont.

Cornwall students were also behind the adoption of Vermont's cold water and warm water fish in 1978 and state butterfly in 1987.

State Senator Elizabeth Ready introduced the Senate joint resolution, J.R.S 57, on January 11, 1994. It was referred to the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee where it languished for a couple of months.

J.R.S. 57 came out of committee with a favorable recommendation and was approved by the full Senate on March 23, 1994.

The House of Representatives took a month and a half to also approve the resolution on May 16, 1994.

Needing no signature by Governor Howard Dean, the painted turtle became the state reptile of Vermont on May 16, 1994.