

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 595

Short Title: Adopt Official State Spider.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Fisher.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 6, 2017

1 **A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

2 AN ACT TO ADOPT THE GOLDEN SILK SPIDER AS THE OFFICIAL STATE SPIDER
3 OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

4 Whereas, the golden silk spider, *Nephila clavipes* (Linnaeus), is a common orb
5 weaver found in North Carolina; and

6 Whereas, the golden silk spider is known for its golden colored silk, which is used
7 to create a large, finely meshed, sticky web, often three feet in diameter, that is placed in insect
8 flight paths on the edge of woodlands; and

9 Whereas, the golden silk spider bites only if held or pinched, which typically
10 produces only localized pain; and

11 Whereas, the golden silk spider preys on a wide variety of small- to medium-sized
12 insects, including mosquitoes, flies, bees, wasps, moths, and butterflies; and

13 Whereas, golden silk spider females can grow up to three inches and are among the
14 largest non-tarantula-like spiders in North America; and

15 Whereas, the female golden silk spider is easily recognized by its large, cylindrical
16 orange and brown body with furry tufts on its legs, while the male version is much smaller and
17 is dark brown in color; and

18 Whereas, golden silk spiders are most active during late summer and fall; and

19 Whereas, during late fall, mature females produce at least two large egg sacs with
20 several hundred eggs surrounded by a basket of curly yellow silk; and

21 Whereas, adopting the golden silk spider as the official State spider of North
22 Carolina would help bring about awareness of this magnificent creature; Now, therefore,
23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

24 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
25 section to read:

26 **"§ 145-49. State spider.**

27 The golden silk spider, *Nephila clavipes* (Linnaeus), is adopted as the official spider of the
28 State of North Carolina."

29 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

