

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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SENATE BILL 835

Short Title: Adopt State Spider.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Wellons.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

April 3, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ADOPT THE SPRUCE-FIR MOSS SPIDER AS THE OFFICIAL
SPIDER OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the spruce-fir moss spider (*Microhexura montivaga*) is a member of the dipluridae family, which are often referred to as "tarantulas;" and

Whereas, the spruce-fir moss spider is known only to conifer forests in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee; and

Whereas, spruce-fir moss spiders are restricted to the moss mats of certain rock outcrops and boulders in mature high-elevation forests dominated by Fraser firs; and

Whereas, the spruce-fir moss spider measures .10 to .15 of an inch in length and ranges in color from a light brown to a darker reddish brown; and

Whereas, because of the spruce-fir moss spider's ability to shed its skin, the spider can grow and live for several years; and

Whereas, in 1995, the spruce-fir moss spider was declared an endangered species; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

§ 145-18. State spider.

The spruce-fir moss spider (*Microhexura montivaga*) is adopted as the official spider of the State of North Carolina.

SECTION 2. The title of Chapter 145 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

"Chapter 145.

State Flower, Bird, Tree, Shell, Mammal, Fish, Insect, Stone, ~~Reptile and Reptile~~, Rock, Beverage, Historical Boat, Language, Dog, Military Academy, Tartan, ~~and Watermelon Festival~~Festivals, Vegetable, and Spider."

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SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.