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SENATE BILL 5048

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Winsley, Haugen and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/13/2003. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the official mammal of the state of Washington;  
2 adding a new section 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 recognizes that the orca  
5 whale, *Orcinus orca*, also known as the killer whale, is a magnificent  
6 free-roaming marine creature of the Pacific Northwest, and is an icon  
7 of the marine ecosystem. The state of Washington has designated an  
8 official state tree, grass, flower, fruit, bird, fossil, fish, insect,  
9 song, folk song, and dance, but not an official state mammal. The orca  
10 is an integral part of Northwest Indian tribal culture, and no living  
11 creature would be more appropriate as an official state mammal than an  
12 orca whale. Children of our state are keenly aware of the importance  
13 of the orca as a symbol of wildness and freedom. The legislature finds  
14 that the orca are state treasures, and are deserving of recognition as  
15 the official state mammal.

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

1           The orca whale, *Orcinus orca*, is designated the official mammal of  
2 the state of Washington.

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