

Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS

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House Bill 4923 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Representative Liz Brater
House Committee: Regulatory Affairs
Senate Committee: Government Operations

Date Completed: 12-8-98

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Through the years the State has adopted various objects, animals, and plants as official State symbols. In addition to the State flag, State seal, and State coat-of-arms, currently the State has eight official State symbols: the State stone (Petoskey); State flower (Apple Blossom); State fish (Brook Trout); State reptile (Painted Turtle); State gem (Isle Royal Greenstone); State soil (Kalkaska); State bird (Robin); and State tree (White Pine). It has been pointed out that, thus far, the State has not adopted a State wildflower. It has been suggested that the Dwarf Lake Iris, which is found almost exclusively in Michigan, be named the State wildflower.

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The bill would create a new act to designate the Dwarf Lake Iris (*Iris lacustris*) as the official State wildflower.

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State symbols should highlight wildlife and natural resources in the State, and should represent something special or unique about Michigan. The Dwarf Lake Iris meets those criteria. The Iris blooms around Memorial Day each year, in clusters of short, blue flowers. It is found almost

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Fiscal Analyst: E. Limbs

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.