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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2328 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY REED, SAYLOR, GODSHALL, MEHAFFIE, JOZWIAK, BARBIN,  
WARD, KINSEY, SCHWEYER AND GILLEN, MAY 3, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 3, 2018

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AN ACT

1 Designating Wehrle's salamander (*Plethodon wehrlei*) as the  
2 official State amphibian of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

4 (1) Wehrle's salamander (*Plethodon wehrlei*) was first  
5 discovered by Richard White Wehrle in the Two Lick Hills area  
6 of Indiana County in 1911.

7 (2) Born in 1852 in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Wehrle was a  
8 jeweler, businessman and naturalist who was known for  
9 collecting specimens of fish, snakes, salamanders, insects  
10 and turtles in Indiana County.

11 (3) Wehrle submitted the specimens to museums, including  
12 over 700 specimens to the Academy of Natural Sciences and  
13 over 500 specimens to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

14 (4) In 1912, Wehrle established the Boy's Naturalist  
15 Club to provide outdoor experiences and education in natural  
16 history for area boys.

17 (5) In 1917, Henry W. Fowler and Emmett Reid Dunn of the  
18 Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia named a salamander that

1 Wehrle had discovered in his honor.

2 (6) Wehrle's salamander, or *Plethodon wehrlei*, is a  
3 bluish-black salamander with large, scattered white spots on  
4 its back.

5 (7) Wehrle's salamander is found on forested hillsides  
6 and in cave entrances throughout Appalachia.

7 (8) Upon his death in 1937, Wehrle's pallbearers  
8 included all the men who had been members of the Boy's  
9 Naturalist Club.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Official State amphibian.

13 Wehrle's salamander (*Plethodon wehrlei*) is hereby designated  
14 as the official State amphibian of the Commonwealth of  
15 Pennsylvania.

16 Section 2. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect in 60 days.