

---

HOUSE BILL 2747

---

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Ramel and Lekanoff

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the state microanimal; adding a  
2 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 finds that the tardigrade,  
5 which means "slow stepper" and is sometimes called the water bear or  
6 moss piglet, is among the most resilient animals alive today, having  
7 survived the last five mass extinctions. A native of Washington state  
8 that is found in every county and habitat, the tardigrade lives in  
9 mosses, lichens, marine and freshwater sediments, soil, sea water,  
10 fresh water, glaciers, hot springs, deserts, and rain forests. The  
11 legislature finds that tardigrades are ecologically important because  
12 they eat plant cells and other microorganisms, such as crop  
13 destroying nematodes, and help to clean both soil and water. Due to  
14 its ability to withstand extremes, such as boiling mud pots in  
15 Yellowstone, glaciers on mountaintops, the vacuum of space, extreme  
16 drought, and radiation, scientists are studying the tardigrade for  
17 new methods of adapting to climate change and for ways to prevent  
18 radiation damage from cancer treatments. Tardigrades may also be the  
19 first colonists on the moon since they crash landed there in August  
20 2019. The legislature finds that the tardigrade's extreme  
21 achievements warrant its recognition as the state microanimal.

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

3        The tardigrade is hereby designated as the official microanimal  
4   of the state of Washington.

--- **END** ---