

HOUSE No. 3320

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel M. Donahue

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act designating the Black Swallowtail as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts official butterfly in honor of William P. Callahan III.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/21/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3320

By Representative Donahue of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3320) of Daniel M. Donahue and Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., for legislation to designating the Black Swallowtail as the official butterfly of the Commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act designating the Black Swallowtail as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts official butterfly in honor of William P. Callahan III.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 2 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
2 63 the

3 following section: -

4 Section 64. The Black Swallowtail, scientifically known as *Papilio polyxenes*, is hereby
5 designated the

6 official butterfly of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Adorned with striking black
7 wings accented by

8 yellow spots and blue hindwings, the Black Swallowtail plays a vital role in our
9 ecosystem as a pollinator.

10 It symbolizes the Commonwealth's commitment to environmental stewardship.

11 This butterfly is a symbol of natural beauty and a reminder of Massachusetts' rich
12 agricultural history.

13 Historically common in farm fields, the Black Swallowtail has adapted to various
14 habitats, including the

15 many meadows, gardens, and urban areas of Massachusetts. Its selection reflects
16 Massachusetts'

17 dedication to celebrating and protecting its diverse natural environment.

18 This designation is made in honor of William P. Callahan III, alifelong resident of
19 Massachusetts who

20 passed away from cancer in August of 2021. Billy could be found chasing and
21 photographing butterflies

22 throughout New England on nearly every sunny day (and even some mildly rainy ones)
23 for the last

24 decade before his death. An active member of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, he took
25 a bucket list trip

26 to Costa Rica with his daughter Cara in June of 2021 to observe the wide variety of
27 species found there. A

28 bench is named in his honor at the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas. His final
29 excursion was a

30 walk-through of the Northampton, MA Community Garden, one of his favorite local
31 spots.