

SENATE BILL No. 370

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 1-2-14.

Synopsis: Makes P-47 Thunderbolt official state warbird. Designates the Republic Aviation P-47 Thunderbolt, as produced in Evansville, Indiana, from 1942 to 1945, as the official state warbird of Indiana.

Effective: July 1, 2015.

**Becker, Tomes, Waltz, Banks A,
Schneider**

January 12, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Rules & Legislative Procedure.



First Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning general provisions.

Whereas, the Republic Aviation P-47 Thunderbolt was the only World War II production aircraft built in Indiana;

Whereas, from 1942 to August 15, 1945, the Republic Aviation plant in Evansville, Indiana, produced 6,670 P-47 Thunderbolts, employing several thousand Evansville area men and women, including members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) who piloted the aircraft to United States air bases;

Whereas, the P-47 Thunderbolt, a heavily armed, single-seat fighter-bomber, is considered one of the most significant fighter aircraft of World War II;

Whereas, the P-47 Thunderbolt flew combat in all major theaters, including Europe, Africa, and the Pacific, and participated in nearly all critical operations of World War II, including the Allied invasions of Italy and France, the Battle of the Bulge, and General Patton's Third Army advance through Europe and into Berlin;

Whereas, the P-47 Thunderbolt provided protective escorts for



fleets of bombers, engaged enemy fighters in aerial dogfights, conducted tactical fighter-bombing, and destroyed supplies, transportation, and communications infrastructure behind enemy lines;

Whereas, according to P-47 Thunderbolt at War by Cory Graff, P-47 Thunderbolts logged more than one million combat flying hours during the war, were responsible for the destruction of more than 7,000 enemy aircraft in the air and on the ground, and were able to sustain large amounts of damage and still return their pilots home safely; and

Whereas, Indiana's important contribution to the American war effort in producing the P-47 Thunderbolt deserves to be remembered and celebrated: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 1-2-14 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2015]:
4 **Chapter 14. State Warbird**
5 **Sec. 1. The Republic Aviation P-47 Thunderbolt, as produced in**
6 **Evansville, Indiana, from 1942 to 1945, is designated as the official**
7 **state warbird of Indiana.**

