

Banana slug bill squashed

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — Treading on the dreams of a Camp Fire troop, the state Senate Friday squashed a bill to designate the lowly banana slug as California's official state mollusk.

The much-ballyhooed slug bill, having slithered through the Assembly on a vote of 44-26, failed in the Senate on a vote of 18-13, three votes short of the majority needed for passage.

here.”

Sen. Dan McCorquodale, D-San Jose, shot back, “Can you imagine how Senator Doolittle looks to them?”

As lawmakers took timid peeks at a terrarium holding two giant specimens of the slimy fungus-eater, the debate over the species' official status raged on the Senate floor.

Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti, wearing a navy tie emblazoned with bright yellow, smiling banana slugs, called the mollusk an “all-purpose little animal.”

“They make their home at the foot of our magnificent redwood trees,” Sen. Rebecca Morgan, R-Los Altos Hills, said, adding they pose no danger to food crops and “they eat poison oak — something we should all appreciate.”

But Sen. John Doolittle, R-Rocklin, pronounced the creatures “repulsive,” declaring sternly: “The joke's got to stop

forecast

Mostly cloudy tonight and tomorrow morning with a slight chance of showers, becoming sunny in the afternoon. Sunny Monday.

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