

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1685

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

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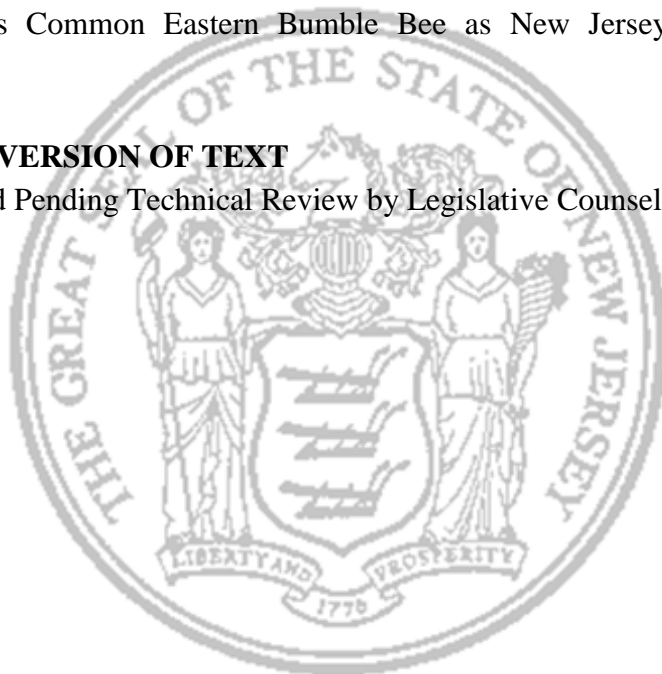
**Assemblymen Conaway, McKeon and Gusciora**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates Common Eastern Bumble Bee as New Jersey State Native Pollinator.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



A1685 DANCER, TALIAFERRO

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1 AN ACT designating the Common Eastern Bumble Bee as the New  
2 Jersey State Native Pollinator and supplementing chapter 9A of  
3 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

4  
5 WHEREAS, Bumble bees, found across New Jersey in urban and rural  
6 areas, are native to our State; and

7 WHEREAS, The Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*) is  
8 a species of bumble bee in North America and an essential  
9 pollinator because it has a long flight season and can fly at low light  
10 levels and at low temperatures; and

11 WHEREAS, The Common Eastern Bumble Bee is an important  
12 generalist pollinator, pollinating a wide range of plants including  
13 New Jersey's leading agricultural crops of blueberries, cranberries,  
14 tomatoes and peppers; and

15 WHEREAS, Pollinators are vital to the health of diverse ecosystems  
16 because the fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a  
17 major part of the diet of all birds and mammals, including more  
18 than 30 percent of the foods and beverages that humans consume;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Pollinators also play a vital role in the health of our State  
21 and national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and  
22 wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational and  
23 economic development opportunities for communities; and

24 WHEREAS, The benefits that native pollinators provide to New Jersey  
25 have been documented through extensive research at Rutgers, the  
26 State University, and other institutions of higher learning; and

27 WHEREAS, A focus on bumble bee pollination can be used to connect  
28 people to nature, while engaging all generations in the conservation  
29 of bumble bees; and

30 WHEREAS, The Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*)  
31 should be designated as the New Jersey State Native Pollinator;  
32 now, therefore,

33  
34 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
35 of New Jersey:

36  
37 1. The Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*) is  
38 designated as the New Jersey State Native Pollinator.

39  
40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41  
42

43 STATEMENT

44  
45 This bill designates the Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus*  
46 *impatiens*) as the New Jersey State Native Pollinator. The Common  
47 Eastern Bumble Bee, found across New Jersey in urban and rural  
48 areas, is native to the State. As generalist pollinators, they are an

1 essential part of the State's pollinator communities by gathering  
2 pollen and nectar from a wide variety of flowering plants. Bumble  
3 bees are important to New Jersey's working farms as key  
4 pollinators of blueberries, cranberries, tomatoes and peppers.  
5 Pollinators are also vital to the health of diverse ecosystems,  
6 because the fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a  
7 major part of the diet of all birds and mammals, including over 30  
8 percent of the foods and beverages that humans consume. The  
9 benefits that native pollinators provide to New Jersey have been  
10 documented through extensive research at Rutgers, the State  
11 University, and other institutions of higher learning.