

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 111

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Encourages NJ homeowners to plant native plants that support bee populations and create habitat for all pollinators.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** encouraging homeowners to plant
2 native plants that support bee populations and create habitat for
3 pollinators.

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5 **WHEREAS**, Pollinator species, such as birds, bees, bats, and butterflies,
6 are essential partners of farmers in producing much of the food
7 supply throughout the United States and here in the Garden State;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, The success of many of New Jersey's most popular and
10 economically important crops, such as blueberries, apples,
11 cranberries, cucumbers, squash, and pumpkins, is dependent upon
12 pollinators; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The maintenance of healthy, biodiverse ecosystems
14 depends upon the significant environmental benefits provided by
15 pollinator species; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Pollination plays a vital role in the health of State and
17 national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and
18 wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational and
19 economic development opportunities for communities; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Many New Jersey homeowners and residents enjoy the
21 State's forests and grasslands, fishing and camping, and feeding
22 their families with the State's most popular and important crops as
23 well as gardening and beautifying their homes; and

24 **WHEREAS**, These outdoor activities go hand in hand with planting
25 native plants to support bee populations and create habitat for all of
26 the State's pollinators; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The Department of Environmental Protection, the
28 Department of Agriculture, and nurseries and landscapers
29 throughout the State have expertise concerning native plants that
30 are beneficial for these purposes; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The benefits that native pollinator species provide to New
32 Jersey, whether agricultural, environmental, recreational, or
33 economic, have been documented through extensive research at
34 Rutgers, the State University, and other institutions of higher
35 learning; and

36 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for the State of New
37 Jersey to demonstrate its support for pollinators by encouraging
38 homeowners in the State to plant pollinator-friendly native plants,
39 and the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of
40 Agriculture, and nurseries and landscapers to lend their assistance
41 in these efforts; now, therefore,

42
43 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
44 Jersey:

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46 1. This House respectfully encourages homeowners throughout
47 the State to plant native plants that support bee populations and
48 provide habitat for all kinds of pollinators.

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1 2. This House respectfully requests the Department of
2 Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture to
3 work together with nurseries and landscapers in the State to develop
4 lists of native plants that would be supportive of these efforts and to
5 post these lists on the department websites, and encourages
6 nurseries, landscapers, and other sources of plants to post these lists
7 on their websites.

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9 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
10 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
11 Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Secretary of
12 Agriculture, the New Jersey Nursery and Landscapers Association,
13 and the governing body of each municipality in the State.

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16 **STATEMENT**

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18 This resolution encourages homeowners in the State to plant
19 native plants that support bee populations and create habitat for all
20 kinds of pollinators. It also respectfully requests the Department of
21 Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture to
22 work together with nurseries and landscapers in the State to develop
23 lists of native plants that would be supportive of these efforts and to
24 post these lists on the department websites, and encourages
25 nurseries, landscapers, and other sources of plants to post these lists
26 on their websites.