

ASSEMBLY, No. 3710

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Wirths

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP to designate native bee nesting habitat areas in each State park and forest.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/9/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the designation of native bee nesting habitat
2 areas in State parks and forests, and supplementing
3 P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-1 et seq.).
4

5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall
9 designate in, and include the designation in the master plan and
10 management plan for, each State park and forest at least one native
11 bee nesting habitat area of the State park in which loose,
12 undisturbed soil and undisturbed foliage and vegetation shall be
13 maintained, as appropriate, to provide native bee habitat for native
14 bees to build nests. The commissioner shall consult with
15 entomologists, knowledgeable nonprofits or organizations, and any
16 other appropriate experts to ensure the proper location,
17 establishment, and maintenance of each native bee nesting habitat
18 area, with minimal threat from fire, danger to the public, or impact
19 on the public's use and enjoyment of the State park or forest.

20 b. The Division of Parks and Forestry in the Department of
21 Environmental Protection shall post signs, as appropriate, notifying
22 the public of the perimeters of each designated native bee nesting
23 habitat area and its purpose, and take any other cautionary measures
24 necessary to avoid destruction of the native bee nesting habitat area
25 and injurious interactions between the native bees and the public in
26 and around each designated native bee nesting habitat area.

27 c. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall adopt,
28 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
29 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be
30 necessary concerning the designation, location, establishment, and
31 maintenance of native bee nesting habitat areas pursuant to this
32 section.
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34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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37 STATEMENT
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39 The bill directs the Commissioner of Environmental Protection
40 to designate at least one native bee nesting habitat area in each of
41 the State parks and forests. The bill specifies that each designated
42 native bee nesting habitat area would have loose, undisturbed soil
43 and undisturbed foliage and vegetation which would be maintained
44 to provide native bee habitat for native bees to build nests. The bill
45 also directs the commissioner to consult with entomologists,
46 knowledgeable nonprofits or organizations, and any other

1 appropriate experts to ensure the proper location, establishment, and
2 maintenance of each native bee nesting habitat area, with minimal
3 threat of fire, danger to the public, or impact on the public's use and
4 enjoyment of the State park or forest. The bill further requires the
5 Division of Parks and Forestry in the Department of Environmental
6 Protection to:

7 1) post signs as appropriate notifying the public of the
8 perimeters of each designated native bee nesting habitat area and its
9 purpose; and

10 2) take any other cautionary measures necessary to avoid
11 destruction of the native bee nesting habitat area and injurious
12 interactions between the native bees and the public in and around
13 the designated native bee nesting habitat area.