

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 102

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ADAM J. TALIAFERRO

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Healthy Pollinators Task Force.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/15/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** establishing the “Healthy Pollinators Task
2 Force.”

3
4 **WHEREAS**, There are several hundred thousand species of flowering
5 plants, many of which cannot grow and reproduce without
6 pollination; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Bees, butterflies, wasps, flies, moths, bats, beetles, and
8 birds are all pollinators engaging in this important process that
9 supports a variety of ecosystems on farms, and in wilderness, cities,
10 and towns throughout New Jersey and the United States; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Insect pollinators such as bees and butterflies are
12 especially important to agriculture in the United States where the
13 value of crops dependent on insect pollination was estimated at \$15
14 billion in 2009; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Bees, butterflies, and many other pollinators are in serious
16 decline in the United States and worldwide, and, in addition to
17 preventing continued losses through immediate national attention,
18 each state can play an important role in arresting the decline; and

19 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey – known as the Garden State – has a special
20 commitment to the protection and support of pollinators because it
21 has preserved more than 220,000 acres of farmland as part of its
22 commitment to agriculture, has designated the honey bee as its
23 State Bug, and is nationally recognized as an important stopping
24 place for monarch butterfly populations as they migrate to and from
25 Mexico; now, therefore,

26
27 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
28 *State of New Jersey:*

29
30 1. a. There is established the “Healthy Pollinators Task Force.”
31 The task force shall comprise 15 members to be selected and
32 qualified as follows:

33 (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the
34 Secretary of Agriculture, or the commissioner’s and the secretary’s
35 designees, respectively, who shall serve ex officio and who shall
36 serve as co-chairs of the task force;

37 (2) the Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner’s
38 designee, who shall serve ex officio;

39 (3) the State Apiarist, or the apiarist’s designee, who shall serve
40 ex officio;

41 (4) the President of the New Jersey Farm Bureau, or the
42 president’s designee, who shall serve ex officio;

43 (5) one representative each, appointed by the Governor, from
44 the New Jersey Audubon Society, the New Jersey Mosquito Control
45 Association or a county mosquito control association or
46 commission, and a recognized Statewide environmental
47 organization;

1 (6) one representative each, appointed by the President of the
2 Senate, from the New Jersey Green Industry Council and the New
3 Jersey Utilities Association;

4 (7) an apiary entomologist or scientist and a representative from
5 the Northeast Organic Farming Association, both appointed by the
6 Speaker of the General Assembly; and

7 (8) three members of the general public, one each appointed by
8 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
9 General Assembly, respectively, who have an understanding of the
10 issues affecting pollinators and their health, including, but not
11 limited to, climate change, pesticide use, and diseases affecting
12 pollinators.

13 b. All appointed members shall be appointed within 30 days
14 after the effective date of this joint resolution. Any vacancies in the
15 membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as
16 the original appointments were made.

17 c. The task force shall organize within 30 days following the
18 appointment of a majority of its members, and may appoint a
19 secretary from among its members. The task force shall meet at the
20 call of either co-chair. A quorum shall be present for any official
21 action by the task force. The presence of both co-chairs or their
22 designees and a majority of the members including the co-chairs
23 shall constitute a quorum. The task force shall make
24 recommendations pursuant to section 2 of this joint resolution by a
25 majority vote of its attending members.

26 d. The members shall serve without compensation, but may be
27 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
28 their duties and within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
29 made available to the task force for its purposes.

30 e. The Department of Environmental Protection and the
31 Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to the task
32 force. The task force may hold public hearings and receive
33 testimony, and shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
34 itself of the services of the employees of any State department,
35 board, bureau, commission, or agency of the State, as it may require
36 and as may be available for its purposes.

37 f. The task force shall dissolve on the 180th day after the date
38 of submission of the task force report to the Governor and the
39 Legislature pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of this act.

40

41 2. a. The Healthy Pollinators Task Force shall:

42 (1) develop a pollinator action plan compiling the most useful
43 research and strategies for protecting and bolstering the health of
44 pollinators to:

45 (a) identify ways the State can use its land resources to provide
46 habitat for pollinators;

1 (b) develop and implement strategies for the mitigation of
2 colony collapse disorder and stressors in the environment such as
3 parasites, pests, and toxins;

4 (c) expand the collection and sharing of data related to
5 pollinator losses, technologies for monitoring pollinator health, and
6 use of public-private partnerships to advance research, enhance data
7 exchange, and attack pollinator health problems;

8 (d) assess native pollinator health and developments in
9 identifying pollinator-friendly plants and their cultivation;

10 (e) develop and implement best practices to reduce pollinator
11 exposure to harmful factors such as pesticides or disease; and

12 (f) develop and implement strategies and methods for
13 encouraging New Jersey farmers to promote pollinators by
14 increasing and improving pollinator habitat;

15 (2) develop a public education plan to inform businesses and the
16 public about steps they can take to improve conditions for
17 pollinators and to promote public-private partnerships to protect and
18 bolster pollinators and their habitat; and

19 (3) develop recommendations for implementing the pollinator
20 action plan, the public education plan, private-public partnerships,
21 and any beneficial strategies identified by the task force.

22 b. No later than one year after the task force organizes, the task
23 force shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor and,
24 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
25 Legislature summarizing the activities and findings of the task
26 force, and setting forth its recommendations.

27
28 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.
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31 STATEMENT
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33 This joint resolution establishes the 15-member "Healthy
34 Pollinators Task Force" to:

35 1) develop a pollinator research action plan compiling the most
36 useful research and strategies for addressing the problem of
37 protecting and bolstering the health of pollinators, such as bees and
38 monarch butterflies, including, but not limited to, the studies,
39 research, and strategies generally described in the joint resolution;

40 2) develop a public education plan and program to promote
41 public-private partnerships;

42 3) develop recommendations for implementing the pollinator
43 action plan, public education plan, private-public partnerships
44 program, and any beneficial strategies identified by the task force;
45 and

46 4) submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature, within
47 one year after the task force organizes, summarizing the activities

1 and findings of the task force, and setting forth its
2 recommendations.

3 The members of the task force would be:

4 1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the
5 Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Transportation, the
6 Commissioner of Corrections, the State Apiarist, and the President
7 of the New Jersey Farm Bureau, all of whom would serve ex
8 officio;

9 2) one representative from the New Jersey Audubon Society
10 and one from a recognized Statewide environmental organization,
11 appointed by the Governor;

12 3) one representative from the New Jersey Green Industry
13 Council and one from the New Jersey Utilities Association,
14 appointed by the President of the Senate;

15 4) an apiary entomologist or scientist and a representative of
16 Rutgers, the State University, appointed by the Speaker of the
17 General Assembly; and

18 5) three members of the general public, one each appointed by
19 the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the General
20 Assembly, respectively, who have an understanding of the issues
21 affecting pollinators and their health, including, but not limited to,
22 climate change, pesticide use, and diseases affecting pollinators.

23 The task force would dissolve 180 days after submitting its
24 report.