

[First Reprint]

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 102

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Urges U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list monarch butterfly as threatened species.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee on March 4, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/4/2021)

- 1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the United States Fish and Wildlife
2 Service to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species.
3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is an iconic
5 large orange and black butterfly that is one of the most familiar
6 butterflies in North America; and
- 7 **WHEREAS**, Every autumn, millions of monarch butterflies undertake a
8 spectacular multi-generational migration thousands of miles from
9 Canada and the northern United States to Mexico and California,
10 stopping along the way in places like New Jersey, to feed and
11 reproduce; and
- 12 **WHEREAS**, Monarch butterfly populations in North America represent
13 the vast majority of all monarch butterflies in the world; and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, Monarch butterfly habitat has been drastically reduced and
15 degraded throughout the butterfly’s summer and winter ranges by
16 the decline of nectar sources, commercial development, logging,
17 and broader environmental changes; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, One of the major reasons for monarch butterfly population
19 decline is the increased use of pesticides that kill milkweed, the
20 monarch butterfly’s preferred plant host; and
- 21 **WHEREAS**, Climate change also poses a dire threat to the monarch
22 butterfly, as several scientists have predicted that the monarch
23 butterfly’s overwintering habitat in Mexico may be rendered
24 unsuitable by global climate change, and that much of the monarch
25 butterfly’s summer range may also become unsuitable due to
26 increasing temperatures; and
- 27 **WHEREAS**, Disease and predation also contribute to population decline
28 and major threats facing the monarch butterfly include numerous
29 pathogens, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoan parasites; and
- 30 **WHEREAS**, The monarch butterfly population has declined by more
31 than 90 percent in the past two decades, and is presently near the
32 lowest population ever recorded; and
- 33 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Endangered Species Act” (16 U.S.C. s.1531
34 et seq.) allows a species to be listed as “threatened” when it is at
35 risk of becoming endangered in a significant portion of its range;
36 and
- 37 **WHEREAS**, Although there are small populations of monarch
38 butterflies throughout the world, the North American monarch
39 butterfly population is significant because without it, the
40 redundancy, resiliency, and representation of the species would be
41 so impaired that the monarch butterfly would become increasingly
42 vulnerable to extinction; and
- 43 **WHEREAS**, Numerous other species have been protected under the
44 federal Endangered Species Act that have large ranges and
45 relatively abundant population sizes but have experienced
46 precipitous population decline and face significant threats to their

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SEN committee amendments adopted March 4, 2021.

1 continued existence, such as the gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*),
2 Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and piping plover (*Charadrius*
3 *melodus*); and

4 **WHEREAS**, In 2014, a group of conservationists, including the Center
5 for Biological Diversity, the Center for Food Safety, and the Xerces
6 Society, petitioned the Secretary of the United States Department of
7 the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to
8 protect the monarch butterfly under the federal Endangered Species
9 Act; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Based on information in that petition, the U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife Service determined that the monarch butterfly population
12 may warrant federal protection, and began the process of
13 conducting a thorough assessment to determine if the monarch
14 butterfly should be listed as a threatened species; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is presently developing
16 a database to capture new, ongoing, and planned conservation
17 efforts for the monarch butterfly, including the enhancement of
18 blooming nectar plant habitats, and to help the agency and its
19 conservation partners assess conditions for the monarch butterfly
20 now and into the future; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ¹【anticipates making a
22 listing decision concerning the monarch butterfly in June 2019】
23 ¹announced in December 2020 that listing the monarch butterfly as
24 endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act is
25 warranted, but precluded by higher priority listing actions¹ ; and

26 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has long supported the preservation of the
27 monarch butterfly, and in 2017, passed two separate pieces of
28 legislation helping to protect the species: the “Adopt a Monarch
29 Butterfly Waystation Act,” P.L.2017, c.250 (C.13:1B-15.162 et
30 seq.), and the “Milkweed for Monarchs Act,” P.L.2017, c.252
31 (C.13:1B-15.170 et seq.); and

32 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey values the important role that pollinators, such
33 as the monarch butterfly, play in the ecology of the State and the
34 nation, and there is bi-partisan support in New Jersey for programs
35 and legislation that protect and encourage pollinators and the
36 habitats that support them; now, therefore,

37

38 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

39

40 1. This House urges the United States Fish and Wildlife
41 Service to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species under
42 the federal Endangered Species Act.

43

44 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
45 shall be transmitted by Secretary of the Senate to the Governor of
46 the State of New Jersey, to the President of the United States, the
47 Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the
48 Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the

SR102 [1R] CODEY, BATEMAN

4

1 United States Department of the Interior, every member of
2 Congress elected from the State of New Jersey, the Governor of
3 New Jersey, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department
4 of Environmental Protection.