

ASSEMBLY, No. 5042

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM W. SPEARMAN

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP to study water absorbency of native plants.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning native plants and supplementing Title 13 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The Department of Environmental Protection, in
8 consultation with the Department of Agriculture, shall conduct a
9 study of native plants in the State to:

10 (1) assess the water absorption qualities of native plants in the
11 northern, central, and southern regions of the State; and

12 (2) determine the species that are most water absorbent and
13 advantageous for use in Blue Acres projects and green
14 infrastructure projects.

15 b. No later than one year after the effective date of this act, the
16 Department of Environmental Protection shall prepare a report of its
17 findings. The report shall include recommendations on the use of
18 water absorbent plants in Blue Acres projects and green
19 infrastructure projects, and suggested rules and regulations
20 necessary to implement the recommendations.

21 c. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt,
22 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
23 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to implement
24 the recommendations made in the report prepared pursuant to this
25 act.

26 d. As used in this section:

27 "Blue Acres project" means any project of the State, a local
28 government unit, or qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization to
29 acquire, for recreation and conservation purposes, lands that have
30 been damaged by, or may be prone to incurring damage caused by,
31 storms or storm-related flooding, or that may buffer or protect other
32 lands from such damage.

33 "Green infrastructure" means a stormwater management system
34 that treats stormwater runoff through infiltration into subsoil, treats
35 stormwater runoff through filtration by vegetation or soil, or stores
36 stormwater runoff for reuse.

37 "Green infrastructure project" means a project incorporating
38 green infrastructure.

39
40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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43 STATEMENT

44
45 This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection, in
46 consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to conduct a study
47 of native plants in the State to assess the water absorption qualities
48 of native plants in the northern, central, and southern parts of the

1 State, and determine the species that are most water absorbent and
2 advantageous for use in Blue Acres projects and green
3 infrastructure projects. The bill also requires that:

4 1) the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) report its
5 findings no later than one year after the effective date of the bill;
6 and

7 2) the report include the DEP's recommendations on the use of
8 water absorbent plants in Blue Acres projects and green
9 infrastructure projects, and suggested rules and regulations
10 necessary to implement the recommendations.

11 The bill authorizes the DEP to adopt rules and regulations
12 necessary for the implementation of this act.