

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 83**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 9, 2021

The Assembly Agriculture Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 83.

This bill would establish the “Jersey Native Plants Program” in the Department of Agriculture. The bill would require the department to develop a program that would: (1) encourage and promote the sale of New Jersey native plants at retail garden centers and nurseries; (2) increase consumer awareness of the important role of native plants in the ecosystem through advertising campaigns and marketing programs; (3) provide for the dissemination of information about the variety and availability of New Jersey native plants; and (4) create a labeling program to identify native plants as “Jersey natives” similar to the Jersey Fresh and Jersey Grown programs.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1580 as also reported by the committee.