



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**January 31, 2023**

**Education, Energy and the Environment Committee**

**SB 62**

***Land Use – Public Service Companies – Pollinator–Friendly Vegetation Management***

**FAVORABLE**

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), on behalf of our Maryland supporters, strongly supports Senate Bill 62, which would eliminate certain local restrictions regarding the creation and management of pollinator and wildlife-friendly vegetation areas.

People, neighborhoods, and entities across the state are opting to replace conventional turfgrass with plants that support wildlife. Making these landscape changes not only creates habitat that benefits our wildlife but also leads to a healthier and more pleasing environment for people. Pollinator friendly vegetation management provides a more robust and resilient ecosystem without the kind of intense management that occurs when maintaining turfgrass and related non-native monoculture-based landscaping. It requires less water, mowing, herbicides, and pesticides to maintain while offering crucial habitat for birds, pollinators and a host of wildlife that make a up a healthy system.

The legislature has recognized the critical value native plants and wildlife-friendly management approaches in our communities can provide by protecting an individual’s rights to replace turfgrass and create native-plant based gardens and beds in their own yards. This bill simply extends that important concept and allows for more humane and lower intensity management of lands owned by public-service companies. Because public service companies often own and maintain property that stretch across entire regions of the state, making these acres pollinator and wildlife friendly can significantly support the health and passage of wildlife species across the state while reducing the resources needed to maintain them.

We thank the committee for its consideration of this legislation and request a favorable vote on SB62.

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