

HOUSE BILL 208

M4

8lr0346

By: **Delegates Riley, Beitzel, Norman, James, Jennings, McComas, Smigiel, and Sossi**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture – Seed and Nursery Stock for Native Plants – Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Native Plants Program for certain
4 purposes; requiring the Department of Agriculture to increase awareness of
5 native plants and provide certain grants under the Program; requiring the
6 Governor to include a certain appropriation for the Program in the State budget
7 for certain fiscal years; and generally relating to increasing the availability of
8 seed and nursery stock for certain native plants.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Agriculture

11 Section 2–1301 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13. Maryland Native
12 Plants Program”

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2007 Replacement Volume)

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, Pollinators are in precipitous decline around the world; and

17 WHEREAS, Nearly 80% of the world’s crop plants require pollination; and

18 WHEREAS, One of the obstacles to protecting and improving pollinator habitat
19 is a chronic shortage of native plants, including seed and nursery stock for native
20 plants; now, therefore,

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Agriculture**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **SUBTITLE 13. MARYLAND NATIVE PLANTS PROGRAM.**

2 **2-1301.**

3 (A) **IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND NATIVE**
4 **PLANTS PROGRAM.**

5 (B) **THERE IS A MARYLAND NATIVE PLANTS PROGRAM WHICH IS**
6 **ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE**
7 **AVAILABILITY OF SEED AND NURSERY STOCK FOR NATIVE PLANTS THAT ARE**
8 **POLLINATOR FRIENDLY.**

9 (C) **UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

10 (1) **INCREASE AWARENESS AMONG NURSERIES AND LAND**
11 **MANAGERS OF NATIVE PLANTS; AND**

12 (2) **PROVIDE GRANTS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF SEED**
13 **AND NURSERY STOCK FOR NATIVE PLANTS.**

14 (D) **THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET**
15 **FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2010 AN**
16 **APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2008.