

CHAPTER 173

(Senate Bill 419)

AN ACT concerning

Agriculture – ~~Seed and Nursery Stock for Native Plants – Funding Wild~~ Pollinators Program

FOR the purpose of establishing, subject to funding in the State budget, the Maryland ~~Native Plants~~ Wild Pollinators Program for certain purposes; requiring the Department of Agriculture to increase awareness and availability of ~~native plants~~ noninvasive plants that are pollinator friendly and provide certain grants under the Program; *providing for the termination of this Act*; ~~requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation for the Program in the State budget for certain fiscal years~~; and generally relating to increasing ~~the availability of seed and nursery stock for certain native plants~~ awareness of wild pollinators and availability of noninvasive plants that are pollinator friendly.

BY adding to

Article – Agriculture

Section 2–1301 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13. Maryland ~~Native Plants~~ Wild Pollinators Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

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

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

WHEREAS, One of the obstacles to protecting and improving pollinator habitat is a chronic shortage of ~~native~~ noninvasive plants that are pollinator friendly, including seed and nursery stock for ~~native plants~~ noninvasive plants that are pollinator friendly; *providing for the termination of this Act*; now, therefore,

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

Article – Agriculture

SUBTITLE 13. MARYLAND ~~NATIVE PLANTS~~ WILD POLLINATORS PROGRAM.

2–1301.

(A) ~~IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND NATIVE PLANTS WILD POLLINATORS PROGRAM.~~

(B) ~~THERE SUBJECT TO FUNDING IN THE STATE BUDGET, THERE IS A MARYLAND NATIVE PLANTS WILD POLLINATORS PROGRAM WHICH IS ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF SEED AND NURSERY STOCK FOR NATIVE AWARENESS OF WILD POLLINATORS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF NONINVASIVE PLANTS THAT ARE POLLINATOR FRIENDLY.~~

(C) UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) INCREASE AWARENESS AMONG NURSERIES AND LAND MANAGERS OF ~~NATIVE PLANTS~~ NONINVASIVE PLANTS THAT ARE POLLINATOR FRIENDLY; AND

(2) PROVIDE GRANTS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF SEED AND NURSERY STOCK FOR ~~NATIVE PLANTS~~ NONINVASIVE PLANTS THAT ARE POLLINATOR FRIENDLY.

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September 30, 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2008.