

CHAPTER 174

(House Bill 208)

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; 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.