

HOUSE BILL 936

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By: **Delegates S. Robinson, Carr, Gilchrist, Haddaway–Riccio, and Mizeur**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2013
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Maryland Botanical Heritage Workgroup**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Botanical Heritage Workgroup;
4 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting
5 a member of the Workgroup from receiving certain compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Workgroup to
7 define challenges to, explore opportunities for improving, and make
8 recommendations regarding the preservation of plant species native to the State
9 and region; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and
10 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
11 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
12 the Maryland Botanical Heritage Workgroup.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That:

15 (a) There is a Maryland Botanical Heritage Workgroup.

16 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

17 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
18 of the Senate;

19 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (4) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

23 (5) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (7) the State Botanist;

3 (8) the State Soil Scientist; and

4 (9) one representative of the Maryland Invasive Species Council,
5 appointed by the Governor.

6 (c) The Governor may appoint any other individual to the Workgroup at the
7 Governor's discretion.

8 (d) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Workgroup.

9 (e) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff for the
10 Workgroup.

11 (f) A member of the Workgroup:

12 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

13 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
14 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

15 (g) The Workgroup shall:

16 (1) define challenges to the preservation of plant species native to the
17 State and region, including:

18 (i) insufficient prevention or control of biological invasions;

19 (ii) habitat fragmentation; and

20 (iii) the lack of data on species loss;

21 (2) explore opportunities for improving the preservation of native
22 plant species, including:

23 (i) the incorporation of advances in biology, information
24 systems, social networks, resilient systems theory, marketing, education, and
25 technological innovation;

26 (ii) the expansion of efforts to provide extension-style support
27 for citizens seeking to be good stewards of botanical heritage; and

1 (iii) the best examples of botanical conservation programs in
2 other jurisdictions; and

3 (3) make recommendations regarding the preservation of native plant
4 species, including:

5 (i) the establishment of botanical conservation goals;

6 (ii) the collection of conservation data;

7 (iii) how to address regulatory opportunities and obstacles; and

8 (iv) how to promote a profitable native plant and seed trade in
9 the State.

10 (h) On or before December 31, 2013, the Workgroup shall report its findings
11 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
12 Government Article, the General Assembly.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
15 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
16 abrogated and of no further force and effect.