



Date: March 13, 2025

Bill: HB 802 – State Designations – State Carnivorous Plant – Purple Pitcherplant

Position: Support

Chair Peña-Melnyk and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for **HB 802**. Our organization is committed to protecting wildlife and promoting healthy ecosystems and habitats through the reintroduction, restoration, maintenance, and conservation of native plant species like the Purple pitcherplant (*Sarracenia purpurea*).

Native plants play vital roles in Maryland's ecosystems. They provide important habitat for local wildlife and migratory species and help improve water quality because unlike their nonnative counterparts, they do not rely on additional watering, fertilizers and pesticides to thrive. Planting native species attracts pollinators such as caterpillars, birds and bees, which in turn supports ecosystem health and enables cultivated food crops we all rely upon. For two decades, the National Aquarium has planted 2 million native plants throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including through partnership with the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife program. This program educates and empowers people to use native plants to save wildlife and is the country's longest-running initiative dedicated to helping local wildlife and wild spaces.

Carnivorous plants offer many benefits to their ecosystems. They can act as biocontrol for certain insect populations and are able to grow in nutrient-poor, waterlogged soil, sequestering nitrogen and making it more hospitable to other plants. The native Purple pitcherplant is also listed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as a S2 threatened or endangered plant, meaning that it is at high risk of extinction or extirpation due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.

Promoting awareness and conservation of threatened and endangered plants can assist with their recovery. Currently, the Venus flytrap is the only other official state carnivorous plant for both North and South Carolina. Maryland should take this opportunity to take a leadership role with designation of the Purple pitcherplant as the state carnivorous plant to highlight the importance of this native species and grow public understanding. **We respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report on HB 802.**

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