



HB0368

Thursday March 13, 2025

Health and Government Operations

Chesapeake Natives strongly supports HB0368, which would officially designate May as Maryland Native Plant Month. As a nonprofit organization dedicated to growing and promoting local ecotype native plants from seed ethically sourced in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, we believe this bill will provide critical support for the future of our region's biodiversity.

Native plants are essential to the health of our environment, supporting local wildlife, improving water quality, and increasing climate resilience. Yet, biodiversity is at risk due to habitat loss, invasive species, and a lack of public awareness. By officially recognizing Maryland Native Plant Month, we can create fun, engaging, and educational opportunities that inspire communities to plant with purpose—restoring vital habitat and strengthening our connection to the natural world.

Predictability is key for making this movement successful. An annual proclamation allows the local nursery trade and other organizations to plan ahead, ensuring that growers have the time to cultivate the right plants, retailers can adjust inventory to meet increasing consumer demand, and events can be planned. With greater access to native plants and the knowledge to use them effectively, Marylanders can take meaningful action to protect our environment—whether in their own backyards, public spaces, or community projects.

Everyone deserves access to native plants and education about their role in sustaining our ecosystem, including the health of the Chesapeake Bay. HB0368 is a powerful step toward a healthier, more resilient Maryland. We urge its passage to celebrate and elevate the importance of native plants for years to come.

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