



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

March 12, 2026

BILL NUMBER: **SENATE BILL 229**

SHORT TITLE: **GENERAL PROVISIONS - COMMEMORATIVE MONTH - MARYLAND NATIVE PLANT MONTH**

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: **SUPPORT**

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

The Department supports SB 229 to establish a Native Plant Month here in Maryland.

Native plants provide significant ecosystem benefits. They are essential for biodiversity, supporting native pollinators, insects, birds, and other wildlife by providing crucial food and habitat. Native plants also help maintain healthy watersheds by reducing stormwater runoff, controlling erosion, and filtering pollutants. Furthermore, they are well-adapted to local climate and soil conditions, often requiring less water, fertilizer, and pesticides than non-native species.

This legislation supports the Department's ongoing dedication to promote our state's native plants and having a commemorative month could be a useful tool for public outreach and communication materials.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

"Native plant" is a plant that occurs naturally in the State and surrounding region, ecosystem and habitat without direct or indirect human actions. This includes a plant that was present before colonial settlement or is listed as native to the State on the Maryland Plant Atlas website.

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill would require the Governor to annually proclaim the month of May as Maryland Native Plant Month. This would recognize the benefits that native plants have on Maryland's natural environment.

Contact: Lydia McPherson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-875-7785 (cell)