

HB 0217

Miner L. (Moe) Brown

FAVORABLE with AMENDMENT

Title: General Provisions-Commemorative Month-Maryland Native Plant Month

**Chair: Delegate Melissa Wells and Vice Chair Kenneth Kerr of the
Education, Energy, and Environment**

**Sponsored by Delegates Dana Stein, Michele Guyton,
Catherine Forbes, and Sheila Ruth**

This testimony is written in [strong support](#) of House Bill 0217, General Provisions- Commemorative Month- Maryland Native Plant Month. **One simple Amendment is recommended: add the word “Awareness” in the title between the words Plant and Month to further identify the purpose of the annual commemoration.**

My name is Miner L. (Moe) Brown, a 37-year resident of Maryland and **District 11B**. I am a parent, grandparent, great grandparent, coordinator of a new Scouting Citywide Conservation Initiative in Fort McHenry District, Baltimore Area Council, Scouting America encompassing the City of Baltimore, an Eagle Scout & Silver Beaver Awardee, a long-time naturalist guide at Irvine Nature Center and the nature center’s 1st Lifetime Achievement Awardee, a Sierra Club member, and an active member of the Social Justice Committee at our local congregation.

Personal thanks to my Delegate Dana Stein, for his leadership involvement, and commitment in recognizing the public value of HB0217 along with the other cosponsors Delegates Guyton, Forbes and Ruth.

Our **native** Maryland wildlife is dying; our **native** birdlife are disappearing. **They are all depend on native plants for their food and habitat. Native MD plants are also seriously threatened** by over-use of pesticides, home-owners planting landscapes with invasive non-native plants being sold at nurseries that push out native plants, fields being cleared for housing and other building development, and invasive plants. A **positive word** -through the efforts of our Dept. of Agriculture, 13 new invasive plant species have just been listed as prohibited.

When this Bill finally becomes law, it will be the only Annual State Commemorative Month whose current importance to our welfare will predate all human inhabitants in Maryland except out indigenous people (November is American Indian Heritage Month). Its importance deserves recognition. **Our public must become much more knowledgeable about these threats to our nature and ways to combat them! For these reasons, I urge the passage of HB0217.**