

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1887

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2023

The Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1887.

This bill would require the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish a “Pollinator Pathway” designation for municipalities that meet the standards established by the Department of Environmental Protection. The standards for a municipal “Pollinator Pathway” designation would include, but need not be limited to:

- (1) Providing a habitat area for pollinators;
- (2) Providing host plants which shall include at least one of the following to support at least six butterfly species:
 - (a) *Asclepias syriaca*;
 - (b) *Asclepias incarnate*;
 - (c) *Asclepias tuberosa*;
 - (d) *Asclepias verticillata*;
 - (e) *Asclepias exaltata*;
 - (f) *Asclepias purpurascens*;
 - (g) *Asclepias viridiflora*;
 - (h) *Asclepias lanceolate*;
 - (i) *Asclepias quadrifolia*;
 - (j) *Asclepias rubra*;
 - (k) *Asclepias variegata*; or
 - (l) *Asclepias amplexicaulis*;
- (3) Providing at least four nectar sources for pollinators during the seasons of spring, summer, and fall;
- (4) Providing an appropriate water source and shelter for pollinators, and a basking site for butterflies; and
- (5) Incorporating at least five of the conservation practices from subsection c. of section 1 of the bill.

Under the bill, the department would develop and promote a Statewide contest for the establishment of a program logo design for the “Pollinator Pathway” designation sign, to be conducted every 10 years, and would solicit input from the general public prior to announcing the winning design. After the establishment of a program logo, the department would provide a “Pollinator Pathway”

designation sign or signs for outdoor use by any municipality that meets the designation requirements.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.