

ASSEMBLY, No. 4363

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 2, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Designates Common Eastern Bumble Bee as New Jersey State Native Pollinator.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** designating the Common Eastern Bumble Bee as the New
2 Jersey State Native Pollinator and supplementing chapter 9A of
3 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Bumble bees, found across New Jersey in urban and rural
6 areas, are native to our State; and

7 **WHEREAS**, The Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*) is
8 a species of bumble bee in North America and an essential
9 pollinator because it has a long flight season and can fly at low light
10 levels and at low temperatures; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The Common Eastern Bumble Bee is an important
12 generalist pollinator, pollinating a wide range of plants including
13 New Jersey’s leading agricultural crops of blueberries, cranberries,
14 tomatoes and peppers; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Pollinators are vital to the health of diverse ecosystems
16 because the fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a
17 major part of the diet of all birds and mammals, including more
18 than 30 percent of the foods and beverages that humans consume;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, Pollinators also play a vital role in the health of our State
21 and national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and
22 wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational and
23 economic development opportunities for communities; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The benefits that native pollinators provide to New Jersey
25 have been documented through extensive research at Rutgers, the
26 State University, and other institutions of higher learning; and

27 **WHEREAS**, A focus on bumble bee pollination can be used to connect
28 people to nature, while engaging all generations in the conservation
29 of bumble bees; and

30 **WHEREAS**, The Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*)
31 should be designated as the New Jersey State Native Pollinator;
32 now, therefore,

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34 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
35 of New Jersey:

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37 1. The Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*) is
38 designated as the New Jersey State Native Pollinator.

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40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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 This bill designates the Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*) as the New Jersey State Native Pollinator. The Common Eastern Bumble Bee, found across New Jersey in urban and rural areas, is native to the State. As generalist pollinators, they are an

1 essential part of the State's pollinator communities by gathering
2 pollen and nectar from a wide variety of flowering plants. Bumble
3 bees are important to New Jersey's working farms as key
4 pollinators of blueberries, cranberries, tomatoes and peppers.
5 Pollinators are also vital to the health of diverse ecosystems,
6 because the fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a
7 major part of the diet of all birds and mammals, including over 30
8 percent of the foods and beverages that humans consume. The
9 benefits that native pollinators provide to New Jersey have been
10 documented through extensive research at Rutgers, the State
11 University, and other institutions of higher learning.