

H*3994

Session 122 (2017-2018)

H*3994 Resolution, By J.E. Smith, Alexander, Allison, Anderson, Anthony, Arrington, Atkinson, Atwater, Bales, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bedingfield, Bennett, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bowers, Bradley, Brown, Burns, Caskey, Chumley, Clary, Clemmons, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Cogswell, Cole, Collins, Crawford, Crosby, Daning, Davis, Delleney, Dillard, Douglas, Duckworth, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Finlay, Forrest, Forrester, Fry, Funderburk, Gagnon, Gilliard, Govan, Hamilton, Hardee, Hart, Hayes, Henderson, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hill, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Jefferson, Johnson, Jordan, King, Kirby, Knight, Loftis, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Mack, Magnuson, Martin, McCoy, McCravy, McEachern, McKnight, Mitchell, D.C. Moss, V.S. Moss, Murphy, B. Newton, W. Newton, Norrell, Ott, Parks, Pitts, Pope, Putnam, Quinn, Ridgeway, M. Rivers, S. Rivers, Robinson-Simpson, Rutherford, Ryhal, Sandifer, Simrill, G.M. Smith, G.R. Smith, Sottile, Spires, Stavrinakis, Stringer, Tallon, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Toole, Weeks, West, Wheeler, Whipper, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis and Yow

A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE ESSENTIAL VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANTS TO THE STATE'S HISTORY, ECONOMY, LANDSCAPE, AND ENVIRONMENT AND TO DESIGNATE OCTOBER 16-20, 2017, THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER, AS "SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT WEEK."

03/15/17 House Introduced and adopted (House Journal-page 3)

VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

[3/15/2017](#)

[3/21/2017](#)

H. 3994

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE ESSENTIAL VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANTS TO THE STATE'S HISTORY, ECONOMY, LANDSCAPE, AND ENVIRONMENT AND TO DESIGNATE OCTOBER 16-20, 2017, THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER, AS "SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT WEEK."

Whereas, South Carolina's native plants provide iconic, economic, artistic, historical, and environmental values, unparalleled and unique to the history of the State and its future; and

Whereas, native plants are those which occur naturally in the specific regions in which they evolved, including our estuarine and tidal freshwater, maritime strand, freshwater wetlands, river and palustrine forested wetlands, and associated coastal uplands; and

Whereas, South Carolina contains over four thousand native plant species, subspecies, and varieties, making South Carolina home to a tremendously rich and diverse plant life. Twenty-one of those species are considered federally threatened or endangered; and

Whereas, maintaining and restoring native plant habitat in South Carolina is vital to preserving South Carolina's present and future biodiversity amid a changing environment; and

Whereas, native plants are more drought resistant; provide more insect food sources to birds and wildlife; use less water; serve as natural pollinators, fertilizers, and chemicals, which promote water conservation and improve water quality of storm runoff; and improve climate resiliency in South Carolina; and

Whereas, native plants provide high-quality food and shelter for more than three hundred resident and migratory bird species in South Carolina, one hundred sixty-one of which are Species of Greatest Conservation Need; and

Whereas, South Carolina currently contends with over ninety invasive and exotic plants, many of which compete with native plant species, degrade soil, facilitate erosion, require more fertilizers and chemicals, provide fewer food sources to native birds and other wildlife, and alter the state's natural landscapes; and

Whereas, the state's original Native American residents lived and thrived by knowledge of native plants, which provided generations with food, clothing, shelter, dyes, tools, medicines, and fuel; and

Whereas, from the state's earliest time, native flora and fauna have provided a rich landscape, inspiring and influencing notable literary and artistic works by internationally recognized figures and thereby securing South Carolina's legacy in natural heritage; and

Whereas, South Carolina's native plants and their derivatives have provided essential foods, medicines, and other products of global import since the colonial period, while native plants, such as sweet grass, play an important role in the state's cultural heritage; and

Whereas, native plant horticulture contributes significantly to the state's economy and employs thousands of South Carolinians, providing a thriving, vital, and ever-expanding industry; and

Whereas, the state's native plants provide essential watershed protection, helping natural aquifers recharge, serving to filter water naturally flowing into rivers and estuaries, lessening erosion and flooding, and supporting rich biodiversity in birds and wildlife; and

Whereas, gardens and landscapes comprised of South Carolina's native plants require far fewer fertilizers, soil amendments, or pesticides, and use significantly less water than those not native; and

Whereas, many native South Carolina plants have played a vital role in state and national history, compelling Congress, the State of South Carolina, and many local communities throughout the State to protect the beauty, power, and grandeur of our wild spaces; and

Whereas, planting, restoration, preservation, and cultivation of the state's indigenous plants provides a natural link to wild land areas present and past, while presenting beauty and benefit and instilling a greater appreciation for South Carolina's natural heritage; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives calls on all South Carolinians during the week of October 16-20, 2017, and every other week of the year to do their part to preserve, protect, and restore precious native habitats. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognizes the essential value and importance of South Carolina's native plants to the state's history, heritage, economy, landscape, and environment and designates October 16-20, 2017, the third week in October, as "South Carolina Native Plant Week."

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