

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

HORTICULTURE: Urges and requests Louisiana state agencies to prioritize native plant species in landscaping state properties, except for invasive plant species listed on the Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request Louisiana state agencies to prioritize native plant species in the  
3 landscaping of state properties, except for invasive plant species listed on the  
4 Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan.

5 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana has  
6 approximately two thousand five hundred native plants including trees, flowers, shrubs,  
7 perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

8 WHEREAS, native plants are naturally adapted to this state's climate, soil types, and  
9 animals, which require low maintenance; and

10 WHEREAS, the low maintenance of these native plants reduces fuel, water, and  
11 fertilizer usage, resulting in higher qualities of local soil, water, and air; and

12 WHEREAS, the use of native plants in gardens, parks, and roadsides contributes to  
13 this state's wildlife and ecosystems by promoting the growth of native pollinator populations;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, pollinators assist in plant reproduction and dispersal, maintaining and  
16 generating wildlife habitats; and

17 WHEREAS, approximately seventy-five percent of all plants require pollinators to  
18 reproduce; and

19 WHEREAS, approximately one-third of all human food requires pollinators for  
20 production; and

1 WHEREAS, pollinators are at a significant decline due to the habitat loss; and

2 WHEREAS, the use of agricultural and residential pesticides has also contributed to  
3 the decline of pollinators by killing beneficial pollinators and reducing the amount of food  
4 available for insects; and

5 WHEREAS, invasive plants are not native to Louisiana and cause significant  
6 negative impacts to this state's native habitats and species; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan, there are  
8 approximately fifty thousand invasive species in the United States that cause major  
9 environmental damage and losses of approximately one hundred thirty-seven million dollars  
10 annually; and

11 WHEREAS, Louisiana's humid subtropical climate puts the state at a high risk for  
12 the introduction of invasive species; and

13 WHEREAS, once the invasive plant species are established, food availability and  
14 habitat quality for native plants are decreased.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request Louisiana state agencies to prioritize  
17 native plants in landscaping state properties.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no invasive plants listed on the Louisiana  
19 Wildlife Action Plan be planted on any state property.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
21 commissioner of administration.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 68 Engrossed

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Thomas

Urges and requests La. state agencies to prioritize native plant species in landscaping state properties, except for invasive plant species listed on the La. Wildlife Action Plan.