

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1250 Session of  
2022

INTRODUCED BY COMITTA, FONTANA, COSTA, KEARNEY AND SCHWANK,  
JUNE 1, 2022

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 1, 2022

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Pollinator Habitat Program in the  
2 Department of Transportation.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
7 Pollinator Habitat Program Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Department." The Department of Transportation of the  
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Plant hardiness zone." A zone identified as existing in  
15 this Commonwealth according to the Plant Hardiness Zone Map  
16 published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

17 "Pollinator habitat." An area of permanent vegetation  
18 located in an agricultural landscape that is suited for

1 pollinating insects.

2 "Program." The Pennsylvania Pollinator Habitat Program  
3 established under section 4.

4 "State-designated highway." A highway or bridge on the  
5 system of highways and bridges over which the department has  
6 assumed or has been given jurisdiction by law.

7 Section 3. Findings.

8 The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Native plants have many ecological benefits. They  
10 provide habitats, stabilize the soil, increase storm water  
11 infiltration, replenish the water table and sequester carbon.

12 (2) Native forbs and grasses have more well-developed,  
13 deep root systems that stabilize soil and prevent erosion,  
14 and they do not require fertilizers, water and other care  
15 during establishment that nonnative plants require.

16 (3) Many native plants are able to tolerate the poor,  
17 compacted soils found along roadsides.

18 Section 4. Pennsylvania Pollinator Habitat Program.

19 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Pollinator Habitat  
20 Program is established in the department. The department, in  
21 consultation with the Department of Conservation and Natural  
22 Resources and the Department of Agriculture, shall:

23 (1) Administer the program to create pollinator habitats  
24 that are located along State-designated highways and are  
25 filled with grasses and perennial wildflowers native to  
26 Pennsylvania in order to facilitate the migration of  
27 pollinators.

28 (2) Develop outreach efforts and provide information to  
29 the general public on the benefits of pollinators.

30 (3) Identify, for each plant hardiness zone and

1 environmental conditions found on a State-designated highway,  
2 a list of the particular native pollinator species that  
3 thrive in the plant hardiness zone in which the pollinator  
4 species is being planted.

5 (b) Mowing schedules.--The department's mowing schedules  
6 shall be modified to be compatible with pollinator cycles.

7 Section 5. Rules and regulations.

8 The department may promulgate rules and regulations to  
9 administer and enforce this act.

10 Section 6. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 120 days.