



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5296

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Rep. Laura Faver Dias

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Mobilizing Our Neighborhoods to Adopt Resilient Conservation Habitats (MONARCH) Act. Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to provide financial and technical assistance for the planting of native and pollinator-friendly plants. Provides that the Department may prioritize grants based on the presence of certain species. Requires the Department to publish information on its website and design a yard sign. Provides that homeowners associations and common interest communities may not prohibit the planting of a pollinator habitat. Authorizes collaboration. Authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Effective immediately.

LRB103 39025 BDA 69162 b

1 AN ACT concerning conservation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Mobilizing Our Neighborhoods to Adopt Resilient Conservation
6 Habitats (MONARCH) Act.

7 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Section:

8 "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.

9 "Pollinator habitat" means any lawn, planted area of a
10 lawn, or planter box or pot in which native flowers, native
11 vegetation, or pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes grow.

12 Section 5. Program created.

13 (a) The Department may provide financial and technical
14 assistance to plant residential landscapes and community
15 spaces with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs
16 and legumes to:

17 (1) protect a diversity of pollinators with declining
18 populations; and

19 (2) provide additional benefits for water management,
20 carbon sequestration, and landscape and climate
21 resiliency.

22 (b) The Department shall publish on its website

1 information guides or links to information related to:

2 (1) creating a pollinator habitat;

3 (2) care and maintenance of a pollinator habitat;

4 (3) recommended practices for pollinator friendly
5 gardening, landscaping, and landscape maintenance;

6 (4) native plant selection for each climate zone
7 present in the State of Illinois; and

8 (5) other community outreach and educational programs
9 related to pollinator habitats identified or created by
10 the Department.

11 (c) The Department shall design a MONARCH yard sign that
12 shall include a QR Code that provides a link to the
13 Department's webpage regarding pollinator habitats. The yard
14 sign shall be available on the Department's website for the
15 public to download and print for personal use.

16 (d) The Department may collaborate with and enter into
17 agreements with federal, State, and local agencies, tribal
18 nations, nonprofit organizations, and contractors to implement
19 and promote the program.

20 (e) This Section is subject to appropriation.

21 Section 10. Grants awardable.

22 (a) The Department must establish criteria for grants or
23 payments awarded under this Act. Grants or payments awarded
24 under this Act may give priority consideration for proposals
25 in areas identified by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as

1 areas in which there is a high potential for rusty patched
2 bumble bees and other priority species to be present.

3 (b) The Department may collaborate with and enter into
4 agreements with federal, state, and local agencies; tribal
5 nations; nonprofit organizations; and contractors to implement
6 and promote the program.

7 (c) This Section is subject to appropriation.

8 Section 15. Rules. The Department shall adopt rules to
9 implement this Act within one year after funds are
10 appropriated for that purpose.

11 Section 20. No prohibition on pollinator habitats.
12 Homeowners associations and common interest communities shall
13 not prohibit any resident or homeowner from planting a
14 pollinator habitat. Homeowners associations and common
15 interest communities shall not enact or enforce rules or
16 regulations that impair the proper maintenance and care of
17 pollinator habitats.

18 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are
19 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.