

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREEMAN, ECHOLS, BAYHAM, BILLINGS, BOYD, COATES, FISHER, FREIBERG, MANDIE LANDRY, LYONS, MYERS, ORGERON, RISER, TAYLOR, WALTERS, WYBLE, AND HEBERT

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 49:170.23, relative to state symbols; to provide relative to Native Plant Month;
3 to designate the month of April as Native Plant Month; and to provide for related
4 matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 49:170.23 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §170.23. Native Plant Month

8 A. The legislature does hereby recognize and acknowledge the following:

9 (1) Louisiana is home to nearly two thousand five hundred native plant
10 species including large shade trees, such as our state tree, Taxodium distichum or
11 bald cypress, and state flower, Magnolia grandiflora or southern magnolia, as well
12 as shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers.

13 (2) Native plants play an important role in all of Louisiana's diverse
14 ecosystems, from the coastal marshes and prairies to the bluff forests of the Tunica
15 Hills, from the bottomland hardwood forests and swamps to the longleaf pine
16 savannas and the oak and hickory woodlands.

17 (3) It is the policy of this state to encourage public awareness about the
18 benefits of Louisiana's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy,
19 and to the health and sustainability of Louisiana's fragile ecosystems.

1 B. In observance and recognition of the indigenous species of native plants
2 which are essential to maintain Louisiana's diverse ecosystem, the legislature hereby
3 designates the month of April of each year as "Native Plant Month" in Louisiana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____