

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES