# ASSEMBLY, No. 1915 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by: Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN District 38 (Bergen and Passaic) Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY District 38 (Bergen and Passaic) Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblyman Space and Assemblywoman Lopez

#### SYNOPSIS

Establishes "pollinator-friendly" label for plants.

## **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/10/2022)

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AN ACT establishing a "pollinator-friendly" label for plants and
 amending P.L.1971, c.176.

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**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 4 of P.L.1971, c.176 (C.13:1F-4) is amended to read as8 follows:

9 4. a. The commissioner shall have the power to formulate and 10 promulgate, amend and repeal orders, rules , and regulations prohibiting, conditioning , and controlling the sale, purchase, 11 12 transportation, labeling, use and application, or any thereof, of 13 pesticides which cause or may tend to cause adverse effects on man or 14 the environment by any person within this State. State rules and 15 regulations with respect to the labeling of any pesticide, the labeling of 16 which is prescribed by Federal law and regulations, shall to the extent 17 practicable conform to the Federal requirements.

b. In addition to any other training and licensing requirements established by the commissioner pursuant to P.L.1971, c.176 (C.13:1F-1 et seq.), a person seeking certification and licensing as a pesticide applicator or a commercial pesticide operator shall be required to complete a continuing education or training course, approved by the department, concerning the impact of pesticides on pollinating bees.

For the purposes of this subsection, "pollinating bee" means any bee that causes a plant to make fruits or seeds by transferring pollen from a plant anther to a plant stigma, resulting in fertilization.

28 c. (1) The commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary of 29 Agriculture, shall establish (a) standards for designating native, non-30 invasive plants as friendly to animal pollinators, which shall include 31 but need not be limited to standards prohibiting or restricting the 32 application or treatment of plants to be sold with pesticides or other 33 chemicals deemed harmful or potentially harmful to animal 34 pollinators, and (b) a "pollinator-friendly" label that a distributor or 35 retail seller of plants may use to indicate that the plant to be sold is friendly to animal pollinators. 36

- 37 (2) No person may distribute or sell at retail a plant labeled as
   38 pollinator friendly or otherwise advertised or labeled as not harmful to
   39 animal pollinators except in compliance with this section.
- 40 (3) For the purposes of this subsection, "animal pollinator" means
  41 any bee, butterfly, moth, wasp, fly, beetle, ant, hummingbird, bat, or
  42 other animal that is known to pollinate plants.
- 43 (cf: P.L.2017, c.296, s.1)

Matter underlined <u>thus</u> is new matter.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in **bold-faced** brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

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1 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month 2 following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of 3 Environmental Protection may take any anticipatory administrative 4 action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation 5 of this act.

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## STATEMENT

10 This bill would require the Commissioner of Environmental 11 Protection, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to 12 establish:

(1) standards for designating native, non-invasive plants as
friendly to animal pollinators, which are required to include, but need
not be limited to, standards prohibiting or restricting the application or
treatment of plants to be sold with pesticides or other chemicals
deemed harmful or potentially harmful to animal pollinators; and

(2) a "pollinator-friendly" label that a distributor or retail seller of
plants may use to indicate that the plant to be sold is friendly to animal
pollinators.

The bill requires a person must be in compliance with the requirements of this bill in order to distribute or sell at retail a plant labeled as pollinator friendly or otherwise advertised or labeled as not harmful to animal pollinators.

As defined in this bill, an "animal pollinator" means any bee,
butterfly, moth, wasp, fly, beetle, ant, hummingbird, bat, or other
animal that is known to pollinate plants.