

ASSEMBLY, No. 2805

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes NJ Native Seed Commission to develop plan to increase production and use of native seeds in State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the production and use of native seeds in the
2 State.

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

6
7 1. a. There is established in the Department of Agriculture the
8 New Jersey Native Seed Commission. The purpose of the
9 commission shall be to develop a plan to:

- 10 (1) increase the production of native seeds in the State;
11 (2) increase the use of native seeds in public land management,
12 roadside landscaping, reforestation, habitat restoration, and other
13 projects as determined by the commission; and
14 (3) ensure that native seeds are commercially available in the
15 State at a reasonable cost and in adequate supply.

16 b. The commission shall consist of 9 members as follows:

17 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of
18 Environmental Protection, and the Commissioner of Transportation,
19 who shall serve ex officio, or their respective designees; and

20 (2) the following public members, appointed by the Governor:

- 21 (a) one member representing plant nurseries in the State;
22 (b) one member representing seed suppliers;
23 (c) one member with experience or expertise in public land
24 management and open space preservation;
25 (d) one member with experience or expertise in highway
26 engineering and roadside landscaping;
27 (e) one member of the academic community with expertise in
28 native plants and native seeds; and
29 (f) one member representing an environmental education and
30 conservation advocacy organization in the State.

31 c. All appointments to the commission shall be made no later
32 than 90 days after the effective date of this act. Each member shall
33 serve for the duration of the commission, and vacancies shall be
34 filled in the same manner as the original appointments. The
35 members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but
36 shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary and reasonable
37 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties within
38 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
39 commission for its purposes.

40 d. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable
41 following the appointment of its public members and shall select a
42 chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members, as
43 well as a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.
44 A majority of the membership of the commission shall constitute a
45 quorum for the transaction of commission business. The
46 commission may meet and hold hearings at the place or places the
47 commission designates.

1 The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to the
2 commission. The commission shall be entitled to call to its
3 assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
4 State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission,
5 or agency as the commission may require and as may be available
6 to the commission for its purposes.

7 e. No later than one year after its organization, the commission
8 shall prepare and submit to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2
9 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature, a final report
10 detailing the commission's plan to increase the production and use
11 of native seeds in the State, including any recommendations for
12 legislative or regulatory action that are necessary to effectuate the
13 plan.

14 f. The commission shall expire 30 days after submission of its
15 final report pursuant to subsection e. of this section.

16 g. As used in this section, "native seed" means a germinating
17 seed, or other plant part used to propagate a plant, that originates
18 from a plant species that is indigenous to New Jersey.

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20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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25 This bill would establish the New Jersey Native Seed
26 Commission in the Department of Agriculture.

27 The purpose of the commission would be to develop a plan to:
28 (1) increase the production of native seeds in the State; (2) increase
29 the use of native seeds in public land management, roadside
30 landscaping, reforestation, habitat restoration, and other projects as
31 determined by the commission; and (3) ensure that native seeds are
32 commercially available in the State at a reasonable cost and in
33 adequate supply.

34 The commission would consist of 9 members, including the
35 Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Environmental
36 Protection, and the Commissioner of Transportation, each of whom
37 would serve ex officio, or their respective designees, and other
38 stakeholders and experts. The commission would be required to
39 submit its plan to the Governor and the Legislature no later than one
40 year after its organization.

41 The commission would expire 30 days after submission of its
42 plan under the bill.