SENATE, No. 4229 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 11, 2023

Sponsored by: Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Designates Common Eastern Bumble Bee as New Jersey State Native Pollinator.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT designating the Common Eastern Bumble Bee as the New 2 Jersey State Native Pollinator and supplementing chapter 9A of 3 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes. 4 5 WHEREAS, Bumble bees, found across New Jersey in urban and rural areas, are native to our State; and 6 7 WHEREAS, The Common Eastern Bumble Bee (Bombus impatiens) is 8 a species of bumble bee in North America and an essential 9 pollinator because it has a long flight season and can fly at low light 10 levels and at low temperatures; and 11 WHEREAS, The Common Eastern Bumble Bee is an important 12 generalist pollinator, pollinating a wide range of plants including New Jersey's leading agricultural crops of blueberries, cranberries, 13 14 tomatoes and peppers; and 15 WHEREAS, Pollinators are vital to the health of diverse ecosystems because the fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a 16 17 major part of the diet of all birds and mammals, including more 18 than 30 percent of the foods and beverages that humans consume; 19 and 20 WHEREAS, Pollinators also play a vital role in the health of our State 21 and national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and 22 wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational and 23 economic development opportunities for communities; and 24 WHEREAS, The benefits that native pollinators provide to New Jersey 25 have been documented through extensive research at Rutgers, the 26 State University, and other institutions of higher learning; and 27 WHEREAS, A focus on bumble bee pollination can be used to connect 28 people to nature, while engaging all generations in the conservation 29 of bumble bees; and 30 WHEREAS, The Common Eastern Bumble Bee (Bombus impatiens) 31 should be designated as the New Jersey State Native Pollinator; now, therefore, 32 33 34 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 35 of New Jersey: 36 37 1. The Common Eastern Bumble Bee (Bombus impatiens) is designated as the New Jersey State Native Pollinator. 38 39 40 2. This act shall take effect immediately. 41 42 43 **STATEMENT** 44 45 This bill designates the Common Eastern Bumble Bee (Bombus 46 *impatiens*) as the New Jersey State Native Pollinator. The Common Eastern Bumble Bee, found across New Jersey in urban and rural 47 areas, is native to the State. As generalist pollinators, they are an 48

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1 essential part of the State's pollinator communities by gathering 2 pollen and nectar from a wide variety of flowering plants. Bumble 3 bees are important to New Jersey's working farms as key pollinators of blueberries, cranberries, tomatoes and peppers. 4 5 Pollinators are also vital to the health of diverse ecosystems, because the fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a 6 7 major part of the diet of all birds and mammals, including over 30 8 percent of the foods and beverages that humans consume. The 9 benefits that native pollinators provide to New Jersey have been documented through extensive research at Rutgers, the State 10 University, and other institutions of higher learning. 11