

# HOUSE BILL 1006

R1

3lr2323

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By: **Delegate Ruth**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Highway Administration – Vegetation Management – Pollinator Habitat**  
3 **Plan**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to develop a certain  
5 pollinator habitat plan for the maintenance of vegetated areas along State highways;  
6 requiring the Administration to apply for certain federal funding; and generally  
7 relating to pollinator–friendly vegetation management.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 8–609.4

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 **8–609.4.**

17 **(A) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL DEVELOP A POLLINATOR HABITAT**  
18 **PLAN, AS REQUIRED UNDER § 2–1801 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE, FOR THE**  
19 **MAINTENANCE OF VEGETATED AREAS ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS.**

20 **(2) IN ADDITION TO THE POLLINATOR HABITAT PLAN, THE**  
21 **ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**

22 **(I) TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF POLLINATOR–FRIENDLY**  
23 **NATIVE PLANTS ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS;**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(II) FOR REDUCING, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE AND IN**  
2 **ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT SAFETY STANDARDS FOR DRIVERS, BICYCLISTS, AND**  
3 **PEDESTRIANS, THE SIZE OF THE AREAS MOWED ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS; AND**

4                   **(III) FOR EDUCATING AND COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC**  
5 **ABOUT POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY HABITATS AND MOWING PRACTICES ALONG STATE**  
6 **HIGHWAYS.**

7                   **(3) THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR EDUCATING AND**  
8 **COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION**  
9 **MAY INCLUDE:**

10                   **(I) PLACING AND MAINTAINING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY**  
11 **APPLICABLE PROVISIONS IN SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS TITLE, INFORMATIONAL SIGNS**  
12 **ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS;**

13                   **(II) PUBLISHING INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE OF THE**  
14 **ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS; AND**

15                   **(III) OUTREACH TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, COMMUNITY**  
16 **ASSOCIATIONS, AND ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

17                   **(B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL APPLY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING THAT MAY**  
18 **BE USED TO SUPPORT THE USE OF POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY NATIVE PLANTS ALONG**  
19 **STATE HIGHWAYS.**

20                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2023.