



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

February 9, 2023

Economic Matters Committee

HB 62

Land Use – Public Service Companies – Pollinator–Friendly Vegetation Management

FAVORABLE

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), on behalf of our Maryland supporters, strongly supports House Bill 62, which would eliminate certain local restrictions regarding the creation and use of pollinator and wildlife friendly vegetation management areas.

People, neighborhoods, and entities across the state are opting to replace conventional turf grass with plants that support pollinators and wildlife. Creating these micro-habitats benefits not just the animals but also leads to a healthier environment, as these spaces support a robust ecosystem without the widespread application of toxins and gas-powered landscaping tools.

The legislature has recognized the critical value of pollinator and wildlife friendly management by protecting an individual's rights to create natural spaces in their own yards. This bill simply extends that concept and allows for more humane management of lands owned by public-service companies. Because public service companies often own and maintain property that stretches across entire regions of the state, making these acres pollinator friendly can enhance the health and passage of wildlife across the state.

We thank the committee for its consideration of this legislation and request a favorable vote on HB62.