



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5067

Introduced 2/8/2024, by Rep. Sonya M. Harper

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Lawns to Legumes Act. Establishes the Lawns to Legumes Program, which requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide assistance for installing pollinator-friendly native plants in residential lawns to protect and support native species of pollinators. Provides that the Department shall adopt rules for the Program. Provides for individual support grants to reimburse Illinois residents for up to \$400, subject to appropriation and other requirements. Provides for demonstration neighborhood grants to units of local government and nonprofit organizations through a request for proposal process, subject to appropriation and other requirements. Provides that homeowners associations and common interest communities may not prohibit the planting of pollinator habitats. Defines terms.

LRB103 39058 BDA 69195 b

1 AN ACT concerning conservation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Prairie Lawns Act.

6 Section 5. Department; defined. In this Act, "Department"
7 means the Department of Natural Resources.

8 Section 10. Prairie Lawns Program created.

9 (a) The Department shall establish and administer the
10 Prairie Lawns Program to provide assistance for installing
11 pollinator-friendly native plants in residential lawns in
12 order to protect and support native species of bees,
13 butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, and other pollinators.

14 (b) To promote the Prairie Lawns Program, the Department
15 shall:

16 (1) conduct outreach and publicity for the Program by,
17 among other things:

18 (A) establishing and administering a public
19 awareness campaign to raise awareness about creating
20 pollinator habitats; and

21 (B) creating and providing a Prairie Lawns yard
22 sign for grant recipients and making the sign

1 available for download on the Department's website;

2 (2) provide educational assistance for installing
3 pollinator-friendly native plants in residential lawns by,
4 among other things:

5 (A) making educational materials available on the
6 Department website; and

7 (B) offering units of local government and
8 nonprofit organizations assistance with related
9 education and outreach efforts;

10 (3) cooperate with units of local government and
11 nonprofit organizations in creating demonstration
12 neighborhoods, which are community projects intended to
13 enhance pollinator habitats and raise awareness about
14 pollinators.

15 A unit of local government or a nonprofit organization
16 overseeing a demonstration neighborhood shall work with
17 local residents to install pocket gardens, trees, bushes,
18 shrubs, meadows, and lawns that are beneficial to
19 pollinators in residential lawns.

20 Section 15. Individual support grants.

21 (a) The Department shall adopt rules and develop criteria
22 to award through the Prairie Lawns Program individual support
23 grants that will allow eligible Illinois residents to be
24 reimbursed for up to \$400 in costs associated with
25 establishing a pollinator habitat in their yards.

1 (b) Individual support grant recipients must provide at
2 least a 25% match for their total reimbursement request. This
3 match can be in the form of purchasing materials, hiring
4 contractors, or as in-kind time spent planting or maintaining
5 plants.

6 (c) An individual support grant applicant shall submit a
7 map of the applicant's completed project in the application
8 for reimbursement.

9 (d) This Section is subject to appropriation.

10 Section 20. Demonstration neighborhood grants.

11 (a) The Department shall adopt rules and develop criteria
12 to award demonstration neighborhood grants to units of local
13 government and nonprofit organizations to create demonstration
14 neighborhoods as described in paragraph (3) of subsection (b)
15 of Section 10 of this Act.

16 (b) Units of local government and nonprofit organizations
17 shall be invited to apply for individual support grants under
18 this Act through a request for proposal process.

19 (c) This Section is subject to appropriation.

20 Section 25. No prohibition on pollinator habitats.
21 Homeowners associations and common interest communities shall
22 not prohibit any resident or homeowner from planting a
23 pollinator habitat. Homeowners associations and common
24 interest communities shall not enact or enforce rules and

1 regulations that impair the proper maintenance and care of
2 pollinator habitats. For the purpose of this Section, a
3 "pollinator habitat" is any lawn, planted area of a lawn, or
4 planter box or pot where there grows native flowers, native
5 vegetation, or pollinator-friendly plants.

6 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are
7 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.