

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. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.

8 "Pollinator habitat" means any lawn, planted area of a
9 lawn, or planter box or pot where there grows native flowers,
10 native vegetation, or pollinator-friendly plants.

11 Section 10. Prairie Lawns Program created.

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

17 (b) To promote the Prairie Lawns Program, the Department
18 shall:

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

21 (A) establishing and administering a public
22 awareness campaign to raise awareness about creating

1 pollinator habitats; and

2 (B) creating and providing a Prairie Lawns yard
3 sign for grant recipients and making the sign
4 available for download on the Department's website;

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

8 (A) making educational materials available on the
9 Department website; and

10 (B) offering units of local government and
11 nonprofit organizations assistance with related
12 education and outreach efforts;

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

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

23 Section 15. Individual support grants.

24 (a) The Department shall adopt rules and develop criteria
25 to award through the Prairie Lawns Program individual support

1 grants that will allow eligible Illinois residents to be
2 reimbursed for up to \$400 in costs associated with
3 establishing a pollinator habitat in their yards.

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

9 (c) An individual support grant applicant shall submit a
10 map of the applicant's completed project in the application
11 for reimbursement.

12 (d) This Section is subject to appropriation.

13 Section 20. Demonstration neighborhood grants.

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

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

22 (c) This Section is subject to appropriation.

23 Section 25. No prohibition on pollinator habitats. Common
24 interest communities, as defined in Section 1-5 of the Common

1 Interest Community Association Act, shall not prohibit any
2 resident or owner from planting a pollinator habitat within
3 the boundaries of the resident's or owner's property or lot.
4 Residents and owners shall not plant a pollinator habitat in
5 or on a common area, property owned by the common interest
6 community, or the property or lot owned by another owner
7 without the prior written consent of the common interest
8 community or other owner. Common interest communities shall
9 not enact or enforce rules and regulations that impair the
10 proper maintenance and care of pollinator habitats.

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