

# SUPPORT HB1998

**Topic:** Native plant species; state agencies to prioritize use on state properties

**Bill Patron:** Delegate Krizek

**Overview:** Amends the existing invasive species legislation to direct the Secretaries of Natural and Historic Resources, Agriculture and Forestry, and Administration to coordinate the development of strategic actions to be taken by state agencies to prioritize the use of native plants

**Reasons to support:** Prioritization of the use of native species on state property represents an enormous opportunity to improve the health and biodiversity of Virginia's ecosystem. Native landscapes support beneficial wildlife and can reduce maintenance costs. Sustainable landscapes with native species address stormwater challenges and can help mitigate the effects of climate change and flooding. The prioritization of native species on state properties also helps raise awareness about the benefits of native species, and can drive broader demand for ecologically-beneficial sustainable landscape methods.

Use of native species is an essential component in the Commonwealth's efforts to reduce the impacts of invasive species.

## VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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