

**ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT**  
**NJ Legislative Bills S92 & A4717**  
**Protect Pollinators License Plates**

*Description: Stimulate public interest to protect pollinators through a Protect Pollinators NJ License Plate campaign. The bill has passed in the Senate; however, additional support is needed in the NJ State Assembly to pass Bill A4717.*

The Garden Club of New Jersey continues efforts to educate the public on the importance of protecting endangered pollinators. One such way is our campaign to obtain legislation for the issuance of automobile license plates that promote an awareness to protect pollinators.

These hard-working animals help pollinate 90% of the world's flowering plants, including our food crops. Pollinators (bees, bats, birds, butterflies, moths, beetles, and insects) are responsible for the pollination of 35% of the products that we eat including produce such as almonds, apples, berries (blueberries, blackberries, cranberries, strawberries, raspberries), grapes, melons, peaches, squashes, and tomatoes. These are just a few of the common plants that rely on bee pollination for production.

Unfortunately, there is increasing evidence that many pollinators are in decline resulting in a possible threat to our food crops. The GCNJ hopes that New Jersey legislators pass the license plate bill in both the Senate and the Assembly and put all three of the official NJ state pollinators on the plates----those pollinators are the goldfinch, the honey bee and the black swallowtail butterfly.

NJ License Plate Bill S92 was introduced by Senator Bateman and passed in the full Senate by a vote of 38-1 with 1 senator abstaining.

NJ License Plate Bill A4717 will be introduced to the Assembly by Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling who has agreed to sponsor the Bill. Next step will be to post A4717 in the Assembly's Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee where it has to be voted on before it moves to the floor for a vote by the entire Assembly.

Pollinators need your help! It is important that our members and the public reach out to their representatives in the Assembly asking that they vote yes in support of this important bill that promotes protection of pollinators. Please consider contacting your NJ Assemblyperson requesting that they vote in favor of NJ Pollinator License Plates Bill # A4717. For information on contacting NJ State Legislators, please see our links to Advocacy.

UPDATE: