

STATE OF NEW YORK

1819

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 14, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON, ZINERMAN, SAYEGH, ROSENTHAL, McDONOUGH,
K. BROWN, COLTON, OTIS -- read once and referred to the Committee on
Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to
enacting the monarch preservation plan

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "monarch preservation plan".

3 § 2. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds that over the
4 past several decades, the number of monarch butterflies in North America
5 has steeply declined. The great migration of the eastern monarchs has
6 been named a "threatened phenomenon" by the International Union for
7 Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). As of 2014, the
8 monarch population has declined from approximately one billion butterf-
9 lies to 35 million, around 90% since 1990.

10 Major threat to monarchs include habitat loss and fragmentation,
11 changes in climate and extreme weather, pesticides, herbicides, and
12 genetically modified crops, invasive species, disease and natural preda-
13 tors.

14 Actively restoring native milkweed and nectar plants, and other polli-
15 nator habitat, and ensuring that key habitats are protected from
16 destruction, are critical to ensuring the survival of monarch butterf-
17 lies and can also help facilitate conservation of other essential polli-
18 nators. Enhancing pollinator populations can result in improved poll-
19 ination services for neighboring land, including agriculture and
20 wildlife ecosystems.

21 § 3. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new
22 section 11-0541 to read as follows:

23 § 11-0541. Monarch preservation plan.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD04729-01-5

1 Beginning within one year of the effective date of this section, the
2 department shall take feasible actions to conserve monarch butterflies
3 and the unique habitats they depend upon for successful migration. These
4 actions may include, but are not limited to, habitat restoration on
5 department and state owned lands, education programs, and voluntary
6 agreements with private landowners. The department may partner with
7 federal agencies, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic
8 programs, private landowners, and other entities that undertake actions
9 to conserve monarch butterflies and aid their successful migration. When
10 undertaking actions to conserve monarch butterflies and their habitats
11 pursuant to this section, the department shall use the best available
12 science and consider, as appropriate and feasible, all of the following:

13 1. restoring or revegetating monarch caterpillar habitat using
14 regionally or locally appropriate native milkweed species and native
15 nectar plant species;

16 2. controlling nonnative weed species that threaten native milkweed
17 species, and controlling pests and disease, using current best manage-
18 ment practices consistent with integrated pest management principles
19 that pose low risk to monarch butterflies and their habitat;

20 3. controlling pest management practices that may be harmful to
21 monarch butterflies, their food or their habitat;

22 4. incorporating diverse tree species, structures, and arrangements
23 when restoring or establishing winter habitat sites to match monarch
24 butterfly preferences for temperature, light, moisture, wind, and other
25 microclimate characteristics; and

26 5. increasing the number of partnerships and making the most of part-
27 nerships to use residential and institutional landscaped areas, agricul-
28 tural non-cropped lands, transportation corridors, and conservation
29 easements to create, restore, or enhance monarch butterfly habitat.

30 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.