

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 663

By Vital

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the month of April 2023 as
"Tennessee Native Plant Month."

WHEREAS, native plants are indigenous species that have evolved alongside native wildlife and occur naturally in a particular geographic region, ecosystem, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, native plants are essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems and are critical for cleaning air, filtering water, and stabilizing soils; and

WHEREAS, native plants are well-adapted to Tennessee's soils, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions, making them the best option for conserving and protecting our environment and adapting to its changes; and

WHEREAS, native plants provide food, including nectar, pollen, seeds, and foliage for native birds, caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is home to more than 2,400 native plant species, which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, some of Tennessee's rarest plants are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and include Pyne's ground plum (*Astragalus bibullatus*), Ruth's golden aster (*Pityopsis ruthii*), and Spring Creek bladderpod (*Paysonia perforata*), which are only found in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is important to raise public awareness about the benefits of Tennessee's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Tennessee's ecosystem; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we join with the Tennessee affiliates of The Garden Club of America as they celebrate the month of April 2023 as "Tennessee Native Plant Month" in recognition of Tennessee's rich biological heritage of native plants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.