

## Designate Every May as Native Plant Month in Rhode Island

### Take Action to Support RI [H7230](#)

**House Bill 7230** (primary sponsor **Representative Michelle McGaw**) designates the month of **May** each year as "**Rhode Island Native Plant Month**". The bill aims to recognize and educate the public about the importance, history, and preservation of Rhode Island's native flora through appropriate ceremonies and activities. It amends Chapter 25-2 of the General Laws (Days of Special Observance) and would take effect immediately upon passage.

- **Senate Companion Legislation:** The corresponding bill in the Senate is S2327 – the Primary Sponsor is Senator Susan Sosnowski.
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**The legislation has been scheduled for a hearing on March, 17, 2026. Here are the Committee Hearing Details:**

- **Committee:** [House Committee on Special Legislation](#)
  - **Date & Time:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at the Rise of the House (approximately 4:30 PM). Please find [Committee Agenda Here](#).
  - **Location:** Rhode Island State House, Room 135
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### How to Submit Written Testimony

If you cannot attend in person, submitting written testimony is a highly effective way to ensure your support is part of the official record. Please note that merely sending a note to your Representative is not the same as submitting written testimony that is part of the record. Please follow the steps below!

1. **Format:** Submit your testimony in **PDF format** to ensure it is processed correctly.
2. **Required Information:** Your written remarks can be as brief or as long as you want. But the document must include:
  - Your full name and organization (if applicable).
  - Your city/town
  - The bill number (**H7230**).
  - Your viewpoint (e.g., "**IN FAVOR**" or "**SUPPORT**").

3. **Submission Email:** Send your testimony to the clerk of the committee [HouseSpecialLegislation@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseSpecialLegislation@rilegislature.gov)
4. Always cc your own [Representative](#)
5. **Deadline:** It is recommended to submit testimony no later than noontime on the day of the committee meeting – but – submitting at any time is useful.

**Keep in mind that written testimony becomes part of the public record and is viewable online.**

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### **How to Testify In Person**

**Hearings take place at “The Rise of the House” this is when the regular House Session ends which is typically around 4:45pm.**

1. **Sign-In:** Arrive at the State House early. There are sign-in sheets located at the entrance of the hearing room (Room 135) or on a table nearby. Mark your name and indicate you are testifying "In Favor" of H7230.
2. **Preparation:** Prepare about **2 minutes** of oral remarks. Committee chairs often limit individual testimony to ensure everyone has a chance to speak.
3. **Procedure:** When called, you will go forward and sit at a table facing the committee – there is a microphone and the hearing is recorded.
4. **Speak from the heart**

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**The following offers a Sample Testimony Format for you to adapt to reflect your voice and sentiments**

**Date:** March 17, 2026

**To:** House Committee on Special Legislation

**From:** [Your Name / Your Organization]

**Re: SUPPORT for H7230** – Relating to Rhode Island Native Plant Month

**Dear Chairwoman Alzate and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation.**

I am writing to express my strong support for **H7230 (McGaw)**, which would permanently designate May as Rhode Island Native Plant Month. I believe this recognition is a vital step toward protecting our state’s unique biological heritage and long-term environmental

health. Native plants are the foundation of our local ecosystems and have co-evolved over thousands of years alongside Rhode Island’s pollinators, birds, and wildlife to provide essential food and habitat. Supporting this bill is critical because:

- **Biodiversity & Wildlife:** Rhode Island is home to over 1,300 native species that provide the specific nectar and foliage required by our native bees, butterflies, and birds.
- **Climate Resilience:** Native plants are naturally adapted to our local soils and weather patterns. They require significantly less water, fertilizers, and pesticides, which protects our drinking water and reduces harmful runoff into our local waterways and Narragansett Bay.
- **Economic & Soil Health:** These plants play a crucial role in stabilizing soil, preventing erosion, and mitigating flooding—services that save the state and homeowners significant money in infrastructure and maintenance costs.

[INSERT ANY DETAILS HERE ABOUT WHY THIS BILL IS IMPORTANT TO YOU/TO RHODE ISLAND – USE CITATIONS/FOOTNOTES IF YOU CITE ANY STUDIES/DATA ]

By establishing this annual observance, Rhode Island joins a growing nationwide movement to prioritize biodiversity and environmental education. I respectfully urge the committee to pass H7230 out of committee for consideration by the full House.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.

**Sincerely,**

[Your Signature]

[Your Printed Name]