



SENATE BILL 606: Prioritize Native NC Plants on Highway ROW.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date: April 16, 2019
Introduced by: Sens. Rabon, J. Davis, McInnis	Prepared by: Shawn Middlebrooks
Analysis of: First Edition	Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 606 would authorize the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) to prioritize the use of native North Carolina plant species for the purpose of promoting erosion control, landscaping, and general protection of State highways.*

CURRENT LAW AND ANALYSIS: The North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) is vested with the power of selecting, planting and protecting trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and legumes (i.e., plants) situated in the State's highway right-of-ways for purposes of promoting erosion control, landscaping, and the general protection of State highways. G.S. 136-18.

Senate Bill 606 would authorize DOT to prioritize the use of "*acceptable*" plants in highway right-of-ways for purposes of erosion control, landscaping, and highway protection. For purposes of this section, "*acceptable*" means plants native to North Carolina.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would be effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: North Carolina's more than 3,900 native plant species provide quality food and shelter to the State's extensive wildlife community, economic stability to the State's agriculture industry, and a greater appreciation for North Carolina's natural beauty and heritage.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578