



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

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 25, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Rabon, J. Davis, McInnis	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Wendy Ray
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 606 would amend the Department of Transportation's authority to plant trees and other vegetation in the highway right-of-way by directing the Department to select acceptable plants with a strong preference for those that are native to North Carolina.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Department of Transportation has the authority to select and plant trees, shrubs, and other vegetation in the highway right-of-way to promote erosion control and for landscaping and general protection of the highways.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 606 would amend the Department's authority to select and plant trees and other vegetation in the highway right-of-way by directing the Department to select and plant "acceptable" trees and other vegetation. Acceptable is defined in the bill as plants the Department determines will maintain a stable and aesthetic roadside, with a strong preference for native North Carolina plants.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would be effective when it becomes law.

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