

- 1 Amend printed bill, page 2, after line 1 insert:
2 **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general
3 assembly finds and declares that:
4 (a) Colorado's policy is to protect and enhance biodiversity
5 because biodiversity is necessary for ecosystem health; supports
6 agricultural productivity by aiding pollination, pest control, and soil
7 fertility; and increases ecosystem resilience to drought and extreme
8 weather events;
9 (b) Healthy ecosystems underpin delivery of water supplies and
10 water quality and guard against water-related hazards and disasters;
11 (c) Studies show that 34% of plant species and 40% of animal
12 species may become extinct and 41% of ecosystems may collapse;
13 (d) Invertebrates provide vital ecosystem services, including
14 pollination, pest control, nutrient cycling, and sustenance for wildlife;
15 (e) Without conservation, invertebrates will continue to decline,
16 likely having profound effects on the environment, humans, and wildlife;
17 (f) Native rare plants are essential to both wildlife and humans,
18 and they contribute to clean air and water, carbon sequestration, food
19 sources, healthy ecosystems, and wildlife habitat;
20 (g) The state wildlife action plan identifies 75 invertebrates and
21 117 rare plants as species of greatest conservation need, over half of
22 which are endemic to Colorado;
23 (h) Information on habitats, threats, and conservation needs is
24 sorely lacking for Colorado's invertebrate and native rare plant species;
25 (i) With a few exceptions, Colorado parks and wildlife does not
26 have statutory authority over invertebrate species, nor does any state
27 agency have oversight of native rare plants;
28 (j) Lack of data limits Colorado's ability to assess the status of,
29 threats to, and conservation needs of invertebrates and rare plants;
30 (k) Creating programs designed to support conservation of native
31 rare plants and invertebrates can lessen the likelihood that the species will
32 be added to federal threatened or endangered lists;
33 (l) Addressing data gaps and creating voluntary conservation
34 programs for native rare plants and invertebrates can affect federal listing
35 decisions, which undercut private land management with regulations; and
36 (m) Authorizing surveys and investigations on these species
37 allows the state to fill data gaps; it does not grant the state the authority
38 to regulate the take of these species without further legislation.
39 (2) Therefore, the general assembly determines that the parks and
40 wildlife division should study and determine the conservation needs of
41 native rare plants and invertebrates and implement voluntary programs to
42 conserve and protect them."

43 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

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