

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill	Blue Bill # HB 29						
	Referred to Committee: House 4						
Authors: Emily Schulman, Erin Hogan, Alex Keeling, Madeline Bolin	Action on the Bill <table> <tr> <td>House</td> <td>Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
House		Senate					
___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed		___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed					
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School: Sacred Heart Academy							
City: Louisville							

1 An act to implement rain gardens across the state of Kentucky.

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3 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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5 Section 1: Rain gardens are landscape basins that contain local plants that collect rainwater and runoff
6 water. Rain gardens provide many environmental benefits. For example, they clean water naturally through a
7 process of filtration, which occurs when plants absorb water and then redistribute it as clean water into the
8 ground. This clean water replenishes the ground by recharging aquifers, natural underground wells of water
9 that humans often use for irrigation and drinking. Rain gardens are also useful in the process of stopping
10 floods and water pollution because they provide a place to collect water so that it does not enter rivers or
11 streams and has a chance to be filtered. Rain gardens provide habitats for animals, such as birds, bugs, and
12 butterflies, and add to the beauty of the state.

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14 Section 2: Rain gardens provide several economic benefits as well, including cutting costs that are currently
15 used for water filtration in factories. The production of these rain gardens as well as the maintenance of the
16 areas will also create jobs.

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18 Section 3: There are 120 counties in the state of Kentucky, which covers a total of about 40,409 square
19 miles. In each county, at least four rain gardens will be required for a total of about 480 rain gardens in the
20 state. With the addition of these rain gardens, Kentucky will be added to the 10 other states that currently
21 have programs for implementing rain gardens such as Maryland, Oregon, Texas, Michigan, and more.

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23 Section 4: If planting of the rain gardens has not started within six months after the bill passes, then the
24 county will be fined \$250 by the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. The county will then have one
25 month to start the idea process. If the county has not started planning by this time, they will be fined \$350
26 for this second offense. Any further actions that needed for the enforcement of this bill will be implemented
27 by the Department of Natural Resources on a case-by-case basis.

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29 Section 5: Rain gardens will be mostly implemented in commercial, industrial, and institutional areas. These
30 areas cost about ten to forty dollars per square foot. Kentucky will get funding for its rain gardens through
31 grants from the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources and through resident taxes - this is the same
32 process for funding of rain gardens used in other states, such as Maryland.

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34 Section 6: This bill will go into effect six months after the bill passes.