



2026 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Concurrent Resolution 605

Introduced by: **Senator Wipf**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the significance of the monarch butterfly**
2 **and encouraging cooperative, voluntary conservation efforts in South Dakota.**

3 WHEREAS, in 2025, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing the
4 monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, as a threatened species under the Endangered Species
5 Act; and

6 WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is a widely recognized and iconic species that contributes
7 to pollination and the overall health of natural ecosystems; and

8 WHEREAS, monarch butterflies depend upon milkweed plants, which are the only plants
9 on which monarch butterflies lay their eggs and upon which monarch larvae feed; and

10 WHEREAS, habitat loss, including the decline of milkweed, has contributed to reductions
11 in monarch butterfly populations; and

12 WHEREAS, lands used for agriculture, transportation rights-of-way, and state
13 management can, when appropriate, provide habitat beneficial to monarch butterflies while
14 continuing to serve their primary purposes; and

15 WHEREAS, conservation efforts are most effective when they are voluntary, cooperative,
16 and respectful of private property rights and agricultural operations;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the One Hundred First Legislature
18 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the
19 Legislature recognizes the importance of the monarch butterfly and supports voluntary
20 conservation practices that are compatible with agriculture, roadside management, and state
21 land management; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature encourages state agencies, local
23 governments, and other land managers to preserve existing milkweed where practicable, and

1 when undertaking restorative or conservation plantings, to prioritize the use of pollinator-
2 friendly native seed mixes that include milkweed species, consistent with land management
3 goals and available resources; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature urges federal agencies, including the
5 United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Department of Agriculture, to
6 work cooperatively with South Dakota landowners, producers, and state agencies in
7 implementing monarch butterfly conservation efforts; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that cooperation in this endeavor should emphasize voluntary
9 participation, technical assistance, and flexibility, and should avoid unnecessary regulatory
10 impacts on agriculture and land use in South Dakota.