

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Department of Agriculture Japanese Beetle and Emerging Pests**

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To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier:	Senator Frederick

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On February 12th the Natural Resources Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Department of Agriculture on the Japanese beetle and other emerging pests.

A budget note directed the agency to report during the 2024 session on the status of the agency's surveillance and treatment against the Japanese beetle and other emerging pests, such as the vine mealybug.

The Department reports treating 2,500 acres for the Japanese beetle in 2023. Overall, the treatments appear to be working, and the Department anticipates a continued decline in the number of beetles if treatments continue for a minimum of 3 to 5 more years. In the 2023 session, a \$1 million General Fund appropriation was approved to continue the Japanese beetle eradication work and \$312,000 was appropriated for eradication and treatment of the vine mealybug.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.