

SENATE No. 2460

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—
In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)
—

SENATE, Monday, April 23, 2018

The committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 451) of Jason M. Lewis, Paul A. Schmid, III, Jay R. Kaufman, Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and other members of the General Court for legislation to protect pollinator habitat; (accompanied by bill, House, No. 457) of Keiko M. Orrall and others for the establishment of a special task force (including members of the General Court) to promote pollinator forage; and (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2926) of Mary S. Keefe and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of opportunities for improving pollinator health,- reports the accompanying resolve (Senate, No. 2460).

For the committee,
Anne M. Gobi

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Resolve to protect pollinator habitat.

1 **Resolved**, There shall be a special commission established to study statewide
2 opportunities for improving pollinator health by increasing and enhancing native pollinator
3 habitat.

4 The commission shall focus on identifying statewide opportunities for enhancing and
5 expanding pollinator habitat in both developed and natural areas such as farm field borders,
6 forest borders, residential areas, parks, urban areas, industrial areas, energy transmission
7 corridors, energy generating facilities and transportation corridors.

8 The commission shall consider enhancing and expanding pollinator habitat for a broad
9 range of native and managed pollinators including but not limited to wild and managed bees,
10 butterflies, moths, beetles, ants, bats and birds.

11 The commission shall report its findings, including any proposed legislation, to the house
12 and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on environment, natural
13 resources and agriculture no later than December 31, 2018.

14 The commission shall consist of: 1 member of the senate appointed by the senate
15 president; 1 member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house; 1
16 member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 1 member of the house of
17 representatives appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; the
18 commissioner of the division of fisheries and wildlife, or a designee, who shall serve as a co-
19 chair; the commissioner of the department of agricultural resources, or a designee, who shall
20 serve as a co-chair; 9 people to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a University of
21 Massachusetts faculty member specializing in the science of pollinator health, 1 of whom shall
22 be a University of Massachusetts faculty member specializing in native wildlife ecology, 1 of
23 whom shall represent an advocacy group for farmers, 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy
24 group for organic farmers, 1 of whom shall be a commercial beekeeper, 1 of whom shall
25 represent the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association, 1 of whom shall be a beekeeper
26 representing the county beekeeping associations, 1 of whom shall represent the Massachusetts
27 Nursery and Landscape Association, and 1 of whom shall represent a membership based non-
28 profit advocacy group dedicated to land protection.

29 The special commission shall examine issues relevant to pollinator health, including: (i)
30 studying public education and outreach plans regarding pollinator habitat that have been
31 successful in other states; (ii) identifying adequacy of funding for efforts to promote or protect
32 pollinator habitat; (iii) evaluating existing best management practices for promoting pollinator
33 health through foraging and proper food source diversity; (vi) studying the use of agricultural
34 and nonagricultural lands, such as transportation corridors, energy transmission corridors, parks,
35 and working forests, and how they may be used to provide pollinator forage and unique
36 opportunities to increase pollinator populations; (vii) research and identify ways to expand and

- 37 coordinate public education programs outlining steps individuals and businesses can take to help
- 38 address the loss of pollinator habitat.