

SENATE No. 451

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to protect pollinator habitat.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	<i>2/8/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/8/2017</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/23/2017</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>4/20/2017</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>9/7/2017</i>

SENATE No. 451

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (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. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to protect pollinator habitat.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. 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 March 1, 2018.

14 The commission shall consist of:

15 1 member of the senate appointed by the senate president; 1 member of the house of
16 representatives appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 member of the senate appointed by the
17 minority leader of the senate; 1 member of the house of representatives appointed by the
18 minority leader of the house; the secretary of energy and environmental affairs or a designee,
19 who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the division of fisheries and wildlife, or a
20 designee; 11 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 represent an advocacy group for farmers, 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for
23 organic farmers, 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for foresters, 1 of whom shall be a
24 commercial beekeeper, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the University of Massachusetts
25 Extension with knowledge in crops which rely on pollinators and pollinator health; 1 of whom
26 shall represent an advocacy group dedicated to the protection of pollinators and invertebrates, 1
27 of whom shall be a beekeeper representing the county beekeeping associations, 1 of whom shall
28 represent an advocacy group for nurseries, 1 of whom shall represent a membership based non-
29 profit advocacy group dedicated to land protection and 1 who shall have expertise in native
30 wildlife ecology.

31 (b) The special commission shall examine issues relevant to pollinator health, including:

32 (i) identifying current laws and regulations in the commonwealth and other states and countries

33 related to protecting pollinators and pollinator health; (ii) studying public education and outreach
34 plans regarding pollinator habitat that have been successful in other states; (iii) identifying
35 adequacy of funding for efforts to promote or protect pollinator habitat; (iv) investigating the
36 means used by other states to gather data on populations of pollinators; (v) evaluating existing
37 best management practices for promoting pollinator health including, but not limited to, foraging
38 and proper food source diversity; (vii) studying the use of agricultural and nonagricultural lands,
39 such as transportation corridors, energy transmission corridors, parks, and working forests, and
40 how they may be used to provide pollinator forage and unique opportunities to increase
41 pollinator populations; (viii) research and identify ways to expand and coordinate public
42 education programs outlining steps individuals and businesses can take to help address the loss
43 of pollinator habitat.