

HOUSE No. 956

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mary S. Keefe

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:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 956

By Ms. Keefe of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 956) 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. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 818 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

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 (a) There shall be a special commission established to study statewide opportunities for
2 improving pollinator health by increasing and enhancing native pollinator habitat. The
3 commission shall focus on identifying statewide opportunities for enhancing and expanding
4 pollinator habitat in both developed and natural areas such as farm field borders, forest borders,
5 residential areas, parks, urban areas, industrial areas, energy transmission corridors, energy
6 generating facilities and transportation corridors. The commission shall consider enhancing and
7 expanding pollinator habitat for a broad range of native and managed pollinators including but
8 not limited to wild and managed bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, ants, bats and birds. The
9 commission shall report its findings, including any proposed legislation, to the house and senate

10 committees on ways and means, the joint committee on environment, natural resources and
11 agriculture no later than March 1, 2022.

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

28 (b) The special commission shall examine issues relevant to pollinator health, including:
29 (i) identifying current laws and regulations in the commonwealth and other states and countries
30 related to protecting pollinators and pollinator health; (ii) studying public education and outreach
31 plans regarding pollinator habitat that have been successful in other states; (iii) identifying
32 adequacy of funding for efforts to promote or protect pollinator habitat; (iv) investigating the

33 means used by other states to gather data on populations of pollinators; (v) evaluating existing
34 best management practices for promoting pollinator health including, but not limited to, foraging
35 and proper food source diversity; (vi) studying the use of agricultural and nonagricultural lands,
36 such as transportation corridors, energy transmission corridors, parks, and working forests, and
37 how they may be used to provide pollinator forage and unique opportunities to increase
38 pollinator populations; (vii) research and identify ways to expand and coordinate public
39 education programs outlining steps individuals and businesses can take to help address the loss
40 of pollinator habitat.