HOUSE . . . . No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

Mary S. Keefe

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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:
Mary S. Keefe	*15th Worcester*	*1/14/2025*

HOUSE . . . . No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *843* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

_____

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. (a) 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, and the joint committee on environment, natural

13	resources and agriculture no later than March 1, 2026.

14	The commission shall consist of 11 members including:

15	1 member of the house of representatives, without a designating party; 1 member of the

16	senate, without a designating party; the secretary of energy and environmental affairs or a

17	designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the division of fisheries and wildlife, or a

18	designee; the commissioner of agricultural resources, or a designee; and 6 members appointed by

19	the governor: 1 of whom shall be a university of massachusetts faculty member specializing in

20	the science of pollinator health; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the university of

21	massachusetts extension with knowledge in crops which rely on pollinators and pollinator health;

22	1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for farmers; 1 of whom shall be a beekeeper

23	representing a regional or statewide beekeeping organization; 1 of whom shall represent an

24	advocacy group for nurseries; and 1 of whom shall represent a membership based non-profit

25	advocacy group dedicated to land protection.

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

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

28	related to protecting pollinators and pollinator health; (ii) studying public education and outreach

29	plans regarding pollinator habitat that have been successful in other states; (iii) identifying

30	adequacy of funding for efforts to promote or protect pollinator habitat; (iv) investigating the

31	means used by other states to gather data on populations of pollinators; (v) evaluating existing

32	best management practices for promoting pollinator health including, but not limited to, foraging

33   and proper food source diversity; (vi) studying the use of agricultural and nonagricultural lands,

34   such as transportation corridors, energy transmission corridors, parks, and working forests, and

35   how they may be used to provide pollinator forage and unique opportunities to increase

36   pollinator populations; (vii) research and identify ways to expand and coordinate public

37   education programs outlining steps individuals and businesses can take to help address the loss

38   of pollinator habitat.