

Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries
Bill Summary

Bill Number: H.108

Title: An Act to protect Massachusetts pollinators

Sponsors: Representative Arena-DeRosa of Holliston

Cosponsors: None

Hearing Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 1:00 PM - 05:00 PM, A-1

Reporting Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025

Similar Matters: H.1041 (Representative Sabadosa - Similar)
S.587 (Senator Eldridge - Similar)

Prior History

New file; No prior history

Current Law

Chapter 132B of the Massachusetts General Laws describes and implements the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act. Section 2 of chapter 132B contains the definitions of important or otherwise ambiguous terms used elsewhere in this chapter. Section 6 of chapter 132B prohibits the distribution of certain pesticides, as a result of public health concern, labeling issue, lack of certification, or other issue at the discretion of the Department of Food and Agriculture (now named the Department of Agricultural Resources, or MDAR). Section 10 of chapter 132B describes the process for the MDAR to certify and license individuals to use pesticides and categorizes applicators as either a certified commercial applicator, certified private applicator, permitted catch basin applicator or licensed applicator. It specifies criteria for application and evaluation by MDAR including a knowledge of integrated pest management, as well as penalties for violating the terms of a license. Section 14 of chapter 132B describes violations and the penalties for violations of the provisions of this chapter.

Summary

This bill amends section 2 of chapter 132B by inserting a definition for neonicotinoid pesticides.

This bill amends section 6 of chapter 132B to prevent neonicotinoids from being used except by professionals certified by the pesticide board. This restriction would not apply to personal or pet use for the purposes of flea, lice, and insect repellent on the body of a person or animal. In cases where a certified commercial applicator uses neonicotinoids, the property owner would be required to consent to this usage and acknowledge the health and environmental hazards of these pesticides.

This bill amends section 10 of chapter 132B by inserting an additional requirement into the certification process for prospective applicators. Applicants would have to demonstrate knowledge on the protection of pollinators from pesticide application in their examination in addition to integrated pest management.

This bill amends section 14 of chapter 132B by including the sections added by this bill to those which are enforceable by punitive measures under section 14 of chapter 132B.

This bill directs the department of transportation to identify opportunities to replace non-native plants and grass around their solar energy installations with native plant species to attract pollinators.