

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

H.539

Introduced by Representative Deen of Westminster

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; wildlife; pollinators

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a Pollinator Protection Committee to evaluate the causes of reduced pollinator populations in the State and to recommend measures the State can adopt to conserve and protect pollinator populations.

An act relating to establishment of a Pollinator Protection Committee

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. POLLINATOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Definition. As used in this section, “pollinator” means bees and other insects that pollinate flowers.

(b) Creation. There is created a Pollinator Protection Committee to:

(1) evaluate the causes of reduced pollinator populations in the State; and

(2) recommend measures the State can adopt to conserve and protect pollinator populations.

1 (c) Membership. The Pollinator Protection Committee shall be composed
2 of the following seven members:

3 (1) one member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed
4 by the Speaker of the House;

5 (2) one member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee
6 on Committees;

7 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or his or her
8 designee;

9 (4) a person representing greenhouse or nursery owners, appointed by
10 the Governor;

11 (5) a person representing an organization advocating the protection of
12 pollinators, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

13 (6) a person who is a beekeeper, appointed by the Speaker of the
14 House; and

15 (7) a person who is a university employee with expertise in the
16 protection of pollinators, appointed by the Governor.

17 (d) Powers and duties. The Pollinator Protection Committee shall:

18 (1) evaluate other state or international pesticide regulations that are
19 more protective of pollinator health than the pesticide regulations of Vermont
20 or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

1 (2) study available education and outreach plans from other states that
2 have been successful in increasing public awareness of pollinator health issues;

3 (3) evaluate the effectiveness of pesticide applicator licensing and other
4 pesticide requirements in the State in protecting pollinator health;

5 (4) evaluate best management practices for application of neonicotinoid
6 pesticides in a manner that avoids harm to pollinators; and

7 (5) identify possible sources of funds for use in the protection of
8 pollinator health.

9 (e) Assistance. The Pollinator Protection Committee shall have the
10 administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Agriculture,
11 Food and Markets and the Agency of Natural Resources.

12 (f) Report. On or before January 15, 2017, the Pollinator Protection
13 Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Fish,
14 Wildlife and Water Resources and on Agriculture and Forest Products and the
15 Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Agriculture with
16 its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

17 (g) Meetings.

18 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall call the first
19 meeting of the Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2016.

20 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
21 first meeting.

1 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

2 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on February 15, 2017.

3 (h) Reimbursement.

4 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
5 Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
6 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406.

7 (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State
8 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
9 attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
10 expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 to be paid by the Agency of
11 Agriculture, Food and Markets.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage.