

Yellow highlighting = Changes from Bill as Introduced

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products to which was referred
3 House Bill No. 539 entitled “An act relating to establishment of a Pollinator
4 Protection Committee” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. POLLINATOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE; REPORT

8 (a) Definition. As used in this section, “pollinator” means bees, birds, bats,
9 and other insects or wildlife that pollinates flowers.

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

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

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

15 (c) Membership. The Pollinator Protection Committee shall be composed
16 of the following ten members:

17 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee;

18 (2) a person who is a beekeeper, appointed by the Governor;

19 (3) a dairy farmer, appointed by the Governor;

20 (4) a person representing an organization advocating the protection of
21 pollinators, appointed by the Governor;

Yellow highlighting = Changes from Bill as Introduced

1 (5) a person who is a beekeeper, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

2 (6) a person who is a university employee with expertise in the

3 protection of pollinators, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

4 (7) a tree fruit farmer, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

5 (8) a vegetable farmer, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

6 (9) a person permitted to sell or apply pesticides, herbicides, or other

7 economic poisons in the State, appointed by the Committee on

8 Committees; and

9 (10) a person who owns or operates a greenhouse or plant nursery,

10 appointed by the Committee on Committees.

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

12 (1) evaluate other state or international pesticide regulations that are

13 more protective of pollinator health than the pesticide regulations of Vermont

14 or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

15 (2) study available education and outreach plans from other states that

16 have been successful in increasing public awareness of pollinator health issues;

17 (3) evaluate the effectiveness of pesticide applicator licensing and other

18 pesticide requirements in the State in protecting pollinator health;

19 (4) evaluate best management practices for application of neonicotinoid

20 pesticides in a manner that avoids harm to pollinators;

Yellow highlighting = Changes from Bill as Introduced

1 (5) identify possible sources of funds for use in the protection of
2 pollinator health;

3 (6) consider the requirements in 2015 Vt. Acts and Resolves No. 64
4 (State Clean Water Act) regarding buffers along State waters and whether and
5 how areas in buffers or other areas that require perennial vegetation should be
6 encouraged for use as pollinator forage zones or pollinator growing areas; and

7 (7) develop the State pollinator protection plan.

8 (e) Assistance. The Pollinator Protection Committee shall have the
9 administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Agriculture,
10 Food and Markets. Upon request of the Committee, the Department of Health,
11 the State Toxicologist, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of
12 Transportation, the University of Vermont Extension Service, or the
13 Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall provide technical or
14 professional services related to performance of the powers and duties of the
15 Committee.

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

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1 (g) Meetings.

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

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

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

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

8 **(h) Reimbursement. Members of the Pollinator Protection Committee shall**
9 **not be entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses for participation**
10 **in the Committee.**

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage.

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14

15 (Committee vote: _____)

16

17

Representative _____

18

FOR THE COMMITTEE