

1 H.726

2 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

3 The Committee on Energy and Technology to which was referred House
4 Bill No. 726 entitled “An act relating to a voluntary pollinator-friendly
5 standard for solar arrays” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
6 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
7 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 217 is added to read:

9 CHAPTER 217. POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY SOLAR GENERATION

10 STANDARD

11 § 5101. DEFINITIONS

12 As used in this chapter:

13 (1) “Agency” means the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

14 (2) “Native perennial vegetation” means Vermont native wildflowers,
15 forbs, and grasses that serve as habitat, forage, and migratory way stations for
16 pollinators and shall not include any invasive species on the Agency’s Noxious
17 Weed Rule under chapter 84 of this title, on the Vermont Invasive Exotic Plant
18 Committee Quarantine and Watch List, or as determined by the Agency of
19 Natural Resources.

20 (3) “Owner” means a public or private entity that has a controlling
21 interest in the solar site.

1 (4) “Pollinator” means bees, birds, bats, and other insects or wildlife that
2 pollinate flowering plants, and includes wild and managed insects.

3 (5) “Solar site” means a ground-mounted solar system for generating
4 electricity and the area surrounding that system under the control of the owner.

5 (6) “Vegetation management plan” means a written document that
6 includes short- and long-term site management practices that will provide and
7 maintain native perennial vegetation.

8 § 5102. BENEFICIAL HABITAT STANDARD

9 (a) This section establishes a standard for owners that intend to claim that,
10 through the voluntary planting and management of vegetation, a solar site
11 provides greater benefits to pollinators and shrub-dependent birds than are
12 provided by solar sites not so managed.

13 (b) In order for the solar site to meet the beneficial habitat standard and for
14 the owner of a solar site to claim that the solar site is beneficial to those species
15 or is pollinator-friendly, all the following shall apply:

16 (1) The owner adheres to guidance set forth by the Pollinator-Friendly
17 Scorecard published by the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension.

18 (2) The owner shall make the solar site’s completed Pollinator-Friendly
19 Scorecard available to the public and provide a copy of the completed
20 Scorecard to the UVM Extension.

21 (3) If the site has a vegetation management plan:

