

1 H.726

2 Representatives Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, McCormack  
3 of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte move that the bill be amended by  
4 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the  
5 following:

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

7 CHAPTER 217. POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY SOLAR GENERATION

8 STANDARD

9 § 5101. DEFINITIONS

10 As used in this chapter:

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

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

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

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

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

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

6           § 5102. BENEFICIAL HABITAT STANDARD

7           (a) This section establishes a standard for owners that intend to claim that a  
8           solar site provides benefits to pollinators and shrub-dependent birds through  
9           the voluntary planting and management of vegetation at a solar site that is  
10           beneficial to pollinators.

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

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

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

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

1           (A) The plan shall maximize the use of native perennial vegetation  
2           and native foraging habitat beneficial to pollinators consistent with the solar  
3           site’s scorecard.

4           (B) The owner shall make the vegetation management plan available  
5           to the public and provide a copy of the plan to the UVM Extension.

6           (4) When establishing perennial vegetation and beneficial foraging  
7           habitat, the solar site shall use native plant species and seed mixes whenever  
8           practicable.

9           (c) Nothing in this chapter affects any findings that must be made in order  
10          to issue a State permit or other approval for a solar site or the duty to comply  
11          with any conditions in such a permit or approval.

12          Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.