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	<u>STANDARD</u>
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:

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.
14	(Committee vote:)
15	
16	Representative
17	FOR THE COMMITTEE
18	