

HOUSE No. 2926

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mary S. Keefe

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to protect pollinator habitat.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Peter J. Durant</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>

<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>

HOUSE No. 2926

By Ms. Keefe of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2926) of Mary S. Keefe and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of opportunities for improving pollinator health. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act to protect pollinator habitat.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 There shall be a special commission established to study statewide opportunities for
2 improving pollinator health by increasing and enhancing native pollinator habitat.

3 The commission shall focus on identifying statewide opportunities for enhancing and
4 expanding pollinator habitat in both developed and natural areas such as farm field borders,
5 forest borders, residential areas, parks, urban areas, industrial areas, energy transmission
6 corridors, energy generating facilities and transportation corridors.

7 The commission shall consider enhancing and expanding pollinator habitat for a broad
8 range of native and managed pollinators including but not limited to wild and managed bees,
9 butterflies, moths, beetles, ants, bats and birds.

10 The commission shall report its findings, including any proposed legislation, to the house
11 and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on environment, natural
12 resources and agriculture no later than March 1, 2018.

13 The commission shall consist of:

14 1 member of the senate; 1 member of the house of representatives; 1 member of the
15 senate appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 1 member of the house of representatives
16 appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; the secretary of energy and
17 environmental affairs or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the division of
18 fisheries and wildlife, or a designee; 11 people to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall
19 be a University of Massachusetts faculty member specializing in the science of pollinator health,
20 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for farmers, 1 of whom shall represent an
21 advocacy group for organic farmers, 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for foresters,
22 1 of whom shall be a commercial beekeeper, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
23 University of Massachusetts Extension with knowledge in crops which rely on pollinators and
24 pollinator health; 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group dedicated to the protection of
25 pollinators and invertebrates, 1 of whom shall be a beekeeper representing the county beekeeping
26 associations, 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for nurseries, 1 of whom shall
27 represent a membership based non-profit advocacy group dedicated to land protection and 1 who
28 shall have expertise in native wildlife ecology.

29 (b) The special commission shall examine issues relevant to pollinator health, including:

30 (i) identifying current laws and regulations in the commonwealth and other states and countries
31 related to protecting pollinators and pollinator health; (ii) studying public education and outreach

32 plans regarding pollinator habitat that have been successful in other states; (iii) identifying
33 adequacy of funding for efforts to promote or protect pollinator habitat; (iv) investigating the
34 means used by other states to gather data on populations of pollinators; (vi) evaluating existing
35 best management practices for promoting pollinator health including, but not limited to, foraging
36 and proper food source diversity; (vii) studying the use of agricultural and nonagricultural lands,
37 such as transportation corridors, energy transmission corridors, parks, and working forests, and
38 how they may be used to provide pollinator forage and unique opportunities to increase
39 pollinator populations; (viii) research and identify ways to expand and coordinate public
40 education programs outlining steps individuals and businesses can take to help address the loss
41 of pollinator habitat.