

HOUSE No. 843

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:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>1/24/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Sally P. Kerans</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>

<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Daniel R. Carey</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>2/11/2023</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/16/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2023</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/1/2023</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 843

By Representative Keefe of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 843) of Mary S. Keefe and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to opportunities for improving pollinator health. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

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

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

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

11 The commission shall report its findings, including any proposed legislation, to the house
12 and senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on environment, natural
13 resources and agriculture no later than March 1, 2024.

14 The commission shall consist of 11 members including:

15 1 member of the house of representatives, without a designating party; 1 member of the
16 senate, without a designating party; the secretary of energy and environmental affairs or a
17 designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the division of fisheries and wildlife, or a
18 designee; the commissioner of agricultural resources, or a designee; and 6 members appointed by
19 the governor: 1 of whom shall be a university of massachusetts faculty member specializing in
20 the science of pollinator health; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the university of
21 massachusetts extension with knowledge in crops which rely on pollinators and pollinator health;
22 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for farmers; 1 of whom shall be a beekeeper
23 representing a regional or statewide beekeeping organization; 1 of whom shall represent an
24 advocacy group for nurseries; and 1 of whom shall represent a membership based non-profit
25 advocacy group dedicated to land protection.

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

27 (i) identifying current laws and regulations in the commonwealth and other states and countries
28 related to protecting pollinators and pollinator health; (ii) studying public education and outreach
29 plans regarding pollinator habitat that have been successful in other states; (iii) identifying
30 adequacy of funding for efforts to promote or protect pollinator habitat; (iv) investigating the
31 means used by other states to gather data on populations of pollinators; (v) evaluating existing
32 best management practices for promoting pollinator health including, but not limited to, foraging

33 and proper food source diversity; (vi) studying the use of agricultural and nonagricultural lands,
34 such as transportation corridors, energy transmission corridors, parks, and working forests, and
35 how they may be used to provide pollinator forage and unique opportunities to increase
36 pollinator populations; (vii) research and identify ways to expand and coordinate public
37 education programs outlining steps individuals and businesses can take to help address the loss
38 of pollinator habitat.