

2018 -- H 8248

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LC005507
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF JUNE 18TH - 24TH, 2018, AS "NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Canario, Donovan, Casimiro, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: May 29, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Pollinators such as honey bees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies move
2 pollen from one flower to another and are vital to agriculture production; and

3 WHEREAS, Pollinators contribute substantially to the economy of the United States,
4 adding billions of dollars in value to agricultural crops each year. Pollinators help pollinate over
5 75 percent of our flowering plants and nearly 75 percent of all our crops, and are vital to keeping
6 fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our daily diets; and

7 WHEREAS, Pollinator losses over the past few decades require careful study and
8 attention to ensure the sustainability of our food production systems, to avoid additional
9 economic impact on the agricultural sector, and to protect environmental health; and

10 WHEREAS, It is critically important to expand federal efforts and to take new steps,
11 including development of new public-private partnerships and increased citizen engagement, to
12 encourage the protection of pollinators, to increase the quality and amount of pollinator habitat
13 and forage, to reverse pollinator losses, and to help restore pollinator populations to healthy
14 levels; and

15 WHEREAS, The declining populations of pollinators, especially bumble bees and honey
16 bees, are a concern for Rhode Island's farmers and agriculture industry which supports 1,243
17 farms and contributes \$59.6 million per year to our economy; and

18 WHEREAS, The important function of pollinators extends beyond agriculture and
19 includes related plant-based industries such as landscaping, floriculture, and golf courses; and

1 WHEREAS, Eleven years ago, the United States Senate unanimously designated a week
2 in June as "National Pollinator Week" to highlight the need to address the issue of declining
3 pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown into an international celebration that
4 recognizes the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States
7 Department of the Interior have declared June 18-24, 2018, as National Pollinator Week; now,
8 therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
10 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes the vital significance of protecting pollinator health and
11 therefore recognizes the week of June 18-24, 2018, as "National Pollinator Week" in the State of
12 Rhode Island; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Janet Coit, Director, Rhode Island
15 Department of Environmental Management.

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