

A Resolve to Protect Pollinator Habitat

S.497 Sponsored by Senator Jason Lewis (Winchester)
H.818 Sponsored by Representative Mary Keefe (Worcester)

What are pollinators?



Honey bees, wild bees, and wasps



Butterflies, moths, and beetles



Birds such as hummingbirds

What's the crisis?

U.S. pollinator populations have been **declining for decades.**

6 million
colonies of
honeybees

1947

2.5 million
colonies of
honeybees

2018

What's the cause?

The crisis is due to a wide **variety of stressors**, including...

- ▶ Disease / mite infestations
- ▶ Poor nutrition
- ▶ Lack of genetic diversity
- ▶ Pesticide exposure
- ▶ Loss of habitat
- ▶ Colony Collapse Disorder

Why should we care?



One out of every three bites of food we eat depends on pollinators.



Pollinators contribute more than **\$24 billion** to the U.S. economy each year and are **the glue** that holds the natural world together.

Protecting pollinator habitats ...

- ▶ Restores pollinator populations
- ▶ Improves water quality
- ▶ Reduces soil erosion
- ▶ Provides habitats for birds and other wildlife

Solution: It's Massachusetts' Turn to be a Leader in Pollinator Recovery

22 states have passed laws to restore pollinator habitats by addressing one or more of the following:



Research

For example, in Connecticut the bill SB231 **convened experts** for a Pollinator Advisory Committee to better understand pollinator health.



Habitat Protection

In Washington, the bill HB2478 requires agencies to give preference to **native forage plants** that benefit pollinators when replacing weeds.



Awareness

Oregon bill HB3362 established the **pollinator health outreach and education plan** to educate the public on the importance of pollinators.

What would the Massachusetts bill "**A Resolve to Protect Pollinator Habitat**" accomplish?

- ▶ Establish a **commission to study statewide opportunities** for improving pollinator health by increasing and enhancing native habitat
 - ▶ Includes both **developed and natural areas**, such as farm field borders, urban areas, and transportation corridors
- ▶ **Examine many issues relevant to pollinator health**, including current laws and regulations, public awareness, funding, best management, practices, and the use of agricultural and non-agricultural lands