

**2016 -- H 8265**

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LC006079  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO MAKE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO MAINTAINING, PROTECTING AND ENHANCING POLLINATOR HABITAT AND HEALTH IN RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Keable, and Edwards

Date Introduced: May 27, 2016

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has been  
2 invested with the power and duty to supervise and control the protection, development, planning  
3 and utilization of the natural resources of the state, including insects, and to promote agriculture  
4 in the state, and to regulate the registration and application of pesticides in the state; and

5           WHEREAS, Pollinators including bees provide invaluable ecosystems services that are  
6 crucial to wellbeing in the state; and

7           WHEREAS, Populations of pollinators including bees have been subject to stress and  
8 impairment in the United States and elsewhere to the extent that pollinator habitat and health have  
9 become matters of reasonable, significant public and environmental concern; and

10          WHEREAS, The causes of this stress and impairment may be multiple and are the  
11 subject of active, on-going studies that can yield advances in understanding of how to improve  
12 conditions and practices affecting pollinator habitat and health; and

13          WHEREAS, Rhode Island currently lacks a systematic and comprehensive assessment of  
14 such studies and advances in understanding and how they might be applied to the benefit of  
15 Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

16          RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State Rhode Island and  
17 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests the Director of the Department of  
18 Environmental Management to convene a working group of not less than seven nor more than

1 eleven members, which shall include a representative of the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape  
2 Association and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and between five and nine members  
3 appointed by the Director, not more than one of whom may be a representative of the  
4 Department, and which appointments shall be made with the purpose of providing for fair balance  
5 and representation of interests concerned with the issues to be considered by the working group;  
6 and be it further

7           RESOLVED, The working group shall be charged with: (a) Making findings with regard  
8 to: (1) Developments in the scientific and technical understanding of conditions and practices  
9 affecting pollinator populations; (2) Conditions and practices affecting the maintenance,  
10 protection, and enhancement of pollinator habitat and health in Rhode Island; (3) Potential costs  
11 and benefits of changing such conditions and practices; and (b) With making recommendations,  
12 based on its findings, to maintain, protect, and enhance pollinator health and habitat in Rhode  
13 Island; and be it further

14           RESOLVED, The Director shall designate one member of the working group to be its  
15 coordinator /presiding officer and the meetings of the working group shall be open to the public  
16 and shall be posted by the Department in accordance with the Open Meetings Law; and be it  
17 further

18           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby respectfully requests the Rhode  
19 Island Nursery and Landscape Association and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island in  
20 collaboration with other members of the working group, to provide such administrative, staff and  
21 logistical support as the working group may require; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives respectfully requests that the working  
23 group provides a written report of its finding and recommendations to the Director and to the  
24 House of Representatives on or before February 15, 2017; and be it further

25           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of  
27 Environmental Management.

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