

2016 -- S 3069

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF JUNE 15-21, 2016, AS "NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK"
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Miller, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: June 09, 2016

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Pollinators such as honey bees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies
2 contribute substantially to the economy of the United States, adding more than \$15 billion in
3 value to agricultural crops each year. Pollinators are vital to keeping fruits, nuts, and vegetables in
4 our daily diets; and

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

8 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has established a Pollinator Health Task Force to
9 create and implement federal strategies that promote the health of honey bees and other
10 pollinators; and

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

16 WHEREAS, The declining populations of pollinators, especially bumble bees and honey
17 bees, are a concern for Rhode Island's farmers and agriculture industry which supports over 2,500
18 jobs and contributes \$239 million to our economy; and

19 WHEREAS, The important function of pollinators extends beyond agriculture and

1 includes related plant-based industries such as landscaping, floriculture, and golf courses; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2015, green-related industries supported a total of 23,562 jobs (15,826
3 direct; 7,736 indirect) and added \$4.39 billion (\$2.5 billion in direct output; \$1.89 billion in
4 indirect output) to our state's economic output; and

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

10 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States
11 Department of the Interior have declared June 15-21, 2016, as National Pollinator Week; now,
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby recognizes the vital significance of protecting pollinator health and therefore recognizes
15 the week of June 15-21, 2016, as "National Pollinator Week" in the State of Rhode Island; and be
16 it further

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

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