



## An Act to Protect Pollinator Habitat

S.451 Sponsored by Senator Jason Lewis (Winchester)

H.2926 Sponsored by Representative Mary Keefe (Worcester)

### Take Action!

Call or write your state legislators today and ask them to support our pollinator protection bill! You can let them know that pollinators like bees, as well as bats, birds, and butterflies, are experiencing rapid population declines, and this bill (S.451 and H.2926) would help to protect and promote pollinators' health and habitat.

**Find out who your legislators are at: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>**

### Why restore pollinator habitat?

Protecting pollinator habitat not only helps restore their populations, but can also improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. This bill would establish a commission to study statewide opportunities for improving pollinator health by increasing and enhancing native habitat. Both developed and natural areas will be considered, including farm field borders, urban areas, and transportation corridors.

### What are pollinators and why are they important?

Pollinators include not only honeybees, but hundreds of species of wild bees, as well as butterflies, moths, beetles, wasps and birds. One in every three bits of food we eat depends on pollinators and they contribute more than \$24 billion to the U.S. economy. Pollinators are the glue that holds our natural world together; many plant-pollinator relationships evolved over millions of years.

### What is the crisis and what is causing it?

Pollinator populations have been declining for decades. In 1947 there were 6 million colonies of honeybees in the United States, while today there are only 2.5 million. The Monarch butterfly migration is also at risk of failing. The pollinator crisis is due to a variety of stressors including disease, mite infestations, poor nutrition, lack of genetic diversity, pesticide exposure, loss of habitat, and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Habitat loss can be addressed by restoring and enhancing pollinator habitat.

### If you have a lawn or garden you can make a difference!

One major way to help pollinators thrive—and beautify an outdoor space—is to plant a native pollinator garden and avoid using pesticides! Check out our tips to help you get started!

**<http://blogs.massaudubon.org/yourgreatoutdoors/six-native-plants-to-grow-for-pollinators/>**

**Take Action! Visit Mass Audubon's website and sign up for our Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup:**

**<http://www.massaudubon.org/get-involved/take-action>**