Overview

Pollinators are declining rapidly due to a number of factors, including loss of habitat, loss of forage, and pesticides. Many states have enacted or are considering legislation to acquire, restore and/or protect pollinator habitat, as well as to restrict the application of pesticides and other chemicals that are harmful to pollinators. Below are a few of the policy options available to states. All bills listed below have passed unless stated otherwise.

Policy Options

**Citizen Participation Initiatives**

- **Minnesota HF 776 (2019)** – Creates a “Lawns to Legumes” Program to allow citizens to apply for grants to develop pollinator habitat in their yards, ($900 k budgeted for a one-year pilot). State ecologists have created online planting guides and tips for interested homeowners.

- **New Jersey AR 216 (2017)** – Encourages homeowners to plant native plants that support bee populations and create habitat for all pollinators.

- **California A.B. 2106 (2020-Died)** – Includes provision to authorize direct payments and other incentives to encourage landowners to voluntarily cultivate or maintain pollinator plants to provide waterfowl and other game bird nesting habitat cover.

**Pollinator Habitat/Corridors for State and Local Lands**

- **Minnesota H.F.2553 (2020)** – To develop pollinator habitat and “pollinator highways.”

- **New York S. 7008 (2020)** – To develop policies for agencies, volunteers and others to create pollinator-friendly medians along highways.

- **New Jersey A4605 (2017)** – Provide tax credits for developing native pollinator habitat on undeveloped property.

- **New Jersey A2125 (2020)** – To develop “pollinator pathways” with designations for municipalities.

**Options for Working Lands**

- **Ohio HB 485 (2020)** – Removes a requirement for farmland owners to annually renew CAUV (Current Agricultural Use Value) program membership. CAUV is a tax-incentive based option to create pollinator habitat.

- **Encourage or require “buffer strips”** of native flowering plants around pesticide-treated crops or along streams, as suggested by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
Solar and Industry Facility Voluntary Pollinator Plantings

- **Illinois SB 3214** (2019) – Provides that an owner of a ground-mounted solar site may follow practices that: provide native perennial vegetation and foraging habitat which is beneficial to game birds, songbirds, and pollinators; and reduce stormwater runoff and erosion at the solar site.

- **Minnesota SF 3018** (2016) – An owner of a ground-mounted solar site with a 40+ kw generating capacity may follow practices that provide native perennial vegetation and foraging habitat beneficial to gamebirds, songbirds, and pollinators; and reduce stormwater runoff and erosion at the site. An owner making a beneficial habitat claim must make the site’s vegetation management plan available to the public and provide a copy of the plan to a Minnesota nonprofit solar industry trade association.

Neonicotinoid Restrictions

- **Vermont H. 205** (2019) – Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to register neonicotinoid pesticides approved for outdoor use as restricted use pesticides. Restricted use pesticides shall be sold by only a licensed dealer and shall only be applied by State certified applicators.

- **New Jersey A. 2070** (2020-Introduced) – Directs the DEP to classify neonicotinoids as restricted use pesticides.

- **Illinois HB 5900** (2017 - Died) – Restrict or prohibit application of neonicotinoids on public lands or in outdoor residential areas.

- **Maryland HB 211** (2016) – Restrict use of pesticides such as neonicotinoids by consumers.

- **Oregon HB 4139** (2014 - Enrolled) – Require information be provided to pesticide applicators and others on how to protect pollinators, and include in applicator education for licensing exams, such as OR HB 4139.

Funding

- **New Mexico SB 234** (2019) – Establishes pollinator license plate to fund DOT pollinator protection activities (a youth art contest was held for the license plate artwork).

- **Minnesota SF 2963** (2016) – Funds native bee and butterfly surveys and study native bees and plants.
• **Maryland HB 132 (2016)** – Funding for relevant state agencies to establish a pollinator habitat plan - the completed plan from 2017 is [viewable here](#).

• **New Jersey S92 (2020- Introduced)** – Authorizes issuance of Protect Pollinator license plates.

### Pollinator Task Force for Study and Recommendations

- **Virginia SB 356 (2016)** – Funded task force to produce recommendations and/or strategies to protect pollinators.

- **Rhode Island H 8265 (2016)** – Created a task force to study and recommend actions for pollinator health and habitat -2017 initial report from the working group is [here](#).