

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0990.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

SENATE BILL 22-199

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jaquez Lewis and Priola,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp and Froelich,

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A STUDY REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF NATIVE**
102 **POLLINATING INSECTS IN THE STATE.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the executive director of the department of natural resources or the executive director's designee (executive director) to conduct a study as soon as practicable regarding the challenges associated with native pollinating insect decline, their associated ecosystems, and their health and resilience in the state. Based on the results of the study, the executive director is required to make

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

recommendations:

- For the protection of native pollinating insects;
- On best practices for state agencies in implementing policies and practices regarding native pollinating insects; and
- On how to develop education and outreach programming.

On or before January 1, 2024, the executive director shall submit to the general assembly and the governor a report summarizing the study and the executive director's recommendations based on the study.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and determines that:

4 (a) Colorado is home to a large and diverse community of native
5 pollinating insects consisting of 946 species of native bees, 250 species
6 of butterflies, and more than 1,000 species of moths, which, along with
7 other insects such as wasps, beetles, and flies, are essential for pollinating
8 the majority of the state's flowering plants. The flowering plants are the
9 foundation of our food systems and support biodiversity.

10 (b) Due to its diverse geography, Colorado has a large number of
11 native bee species that support a wide range of ecosystem types in the
12 state;

13 (c) Colorado's native bee species have coevolved for millions of
14 years with our native flowering plant species and are critical, efficient,
15 effective, and irreplaceable native pollinating insects for native fruits,
16 seeds, and vegetables, many of which domesticated honeybees cannot
17 pollinate;

18 (d) A growing number of the world's plants, insects, and other
19 wildlife are in decline or at risk of extinction due to habitat loss and
20 fragmentation as a result of climate change and other factors. Because

1 such habitat loss and fragmentation can push ecosystems beyond the point
2 of being recoverable, urgent action is needed to protect and stabilize the
3 ecosystems that provide support for pollinators and people alike.

4 (e) Native pollinating insects are vital to Colorado's natural
5 heritage and are essential for systems such as climate regulation, erosion
6 control, nutrient cycling, recreation, pollination of the state's native
7 flowering plants, and more; and

8 (f) The decline in native pollinating insect populations has
9 implications for the state's food supply, economy, the resilience and
10 stability of the state's ecosystems, and the health of the state's citizens.

11 (2) The general assembly declares that the state should identify
12 programs for the protection of both native pollinating insects and people,
13 which programs:

14 (a) Build healthy, diverse, and sustainable habitats for native
15 pollinating insects;

16 (b) Improve state land-use practices;

17 (c) Promote the protection of safe and healthy ecosystems that
18 support native pollinating insects; and

19 (d) Raise awareness throughout the state of the need to protect
20 native pollinating insects.

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33-118 as
22 follows:

23 **24-33-118. Pollinator health study - recommendations -**
24 **reporting - definition - repeal.** (1) AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, THE
25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL:

26 (a) CONDUCT A STUDY REGARDING CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH
27 NATIVE POLLINATING INSECT:

1 (I) DECLINE AND ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS IN THE STATE; AND
2 (II) HEALTH AND RESILIENCE IN THE STATE; AND
3 (b) BASED ON THE STUDY, MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO
4 IMPROVE POLLINATOR HEALTH AND RESILIENCE IN THE STATE.
5 (2) THE STUDY MUST, AT A MINIMUM:
6 (a) IDENTIFY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HEALTHY NATIVE POLLINATING
7 INSECT COMMUNITIES AND THE ROLE OF NATIVE POLLINATING INSECTS IN
8 SUPPORTING HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN WELL-BEING;
9 (b) BASED ON AVAILABLE RESEARCH AND DATA, SUMMARIZE
10 CURRENT KNOWLEDGE REGARDING NATIVE POLLINATOR HEALTH;
11 (c) IDENTIFY:
12 (I) FACTORS THAT, WHETHER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN COMBINATION,
13 NEGATIVELY AFFECT NATIVE POLLINATING INSECT COMMUNITIES;
14 (II) EXISTING PROJECTS, PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, AND
15 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE STATE FOR NATIVE POLLINATING INSECT
16 CONSERVATION;
17 (III) ANY GAPS IN CURRENT KNOWLEDGE REGARDING NATIVE
18 POLLINATING INSECT HEALTH, INCLUDING GAPS IN CURRENT KNOWLEDGE
19 OF:
20 (A) WILD BEE DISTRIBUTIONS AND POPULATION DYNAMICS;
21 (B) NATIVE POLLINATOR SPECIES THAT ARE AT RISK OF DECLINE;
22 AND
23 (C) BEST PRACTICES FOR STATE LAND MANAGERS TO INCENTIVIZE
24 THE CREATION AND PROTECTION OF HEALTHY AND DIVERSE POLLINATOR
25 COMMUNITIES; AND
26 (IV) OPPORTUNITIES FOR:
27 (A) PROTECTION AND RECOVERY EFFORTS THROUGH THE

1 DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS THAT MITIGATE FACTORS THAT NEGATIVELY
2 AFFECT NATIVE POLLINATING INSECT COMMUNITIES; AND

3 (B) THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL STATE LAND
4 MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT RESTORE HABITAT FUNCTIONALITY AND
5 PROVIDE NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS; AND

6 (d) INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING:

7 (I) HOW TO DEVELOP AN EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM TO
8 RAISE AWARENESS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REGARDING, AND TO
9 INCENTIVIZE ACTION TO BENEFIT, NATIVE POLLINATING INSECT HEALTH;

10 (II) HOW BEST TO ENGAGE WITH, AND WORK ACROSS, STATE
11 AGENCIES WHEN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES AND
12 PRACTICES REGARDING NATIVE POLLINATING INSECTS; AND

13 (III) PROTECTION OF NATIVE POLLINATING INSECTS.

14 (3) (a) IN CONDUCTING THE STUDY, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
15 SHALL CONSULT WITH:

16 (I) FEDERAL AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES FISH AND
17 WILDLIFE SERVICE AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE; AND

18 (II) INDEPENDENT SCIENTISTS AND EXPERTS WITH EXPERTISE IN
19 POLLINATOR HEALTH, CLIMATE CHANGE, ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND
20 RESILIENCE, BIODIVERSITY, NATIVE PLANTS, AND ECOLOGICAL LAND
21 MANAGEMENT.

22 (b) OTHER STATE AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF
23 TRANSPORTATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
24 ENVIRONMENT, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, SHALL
25 PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY BY IDENTIFYING THEIR EXISTING PROGRAMS
26 THAT RELATE TO NATIVE POLLINATING INSECT HEALTH AND BY PROVIDING
27 INPUT ON THE STUDY COMPONENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT RELATE

1 TO THE PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED.

2 (4) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2024, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
3 SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNOR A REPORT
4 SUMMARIZING THE STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE STUDY.

5 (5) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR
7 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

8 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

9 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.