

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 517

AN ACT

To amend chapter 261, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to solar site management.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,  
AS FOLLOWS:

Section A. Chapter 261, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 261.500, to read as follows:

261.500. 1. The provisions of this section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Solar Pollinator Habitat Act".

2. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Native perennial vegetation", perennial Missouri wildflowers, shrubs, grasses, or other plants that serve as beneficial habitat, forage, or migratory waystations for pollinators;

(2) "Pollinators", any bees, birds, butterflies, or other animals or insects, including any wild or managed insects, that pollinate flowering plants;

(3) "Solar site", a ground-mounted solar system for generating electricity that is at least one acre in size;

(4) "Vegetation management plan", a written document that includes short-term and long-term site management practices that will provide and maintain native perennial vegetation.

3. The University of Missouri extension service, in

consultation with other state and nongovernmental agencies with expertise in pollinators, shall publish a scorecard that sets forth criteria for making a claim that a solar site is pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators. The scorecard shall be available on the website of the University of Missouri extension service within six months of the effective date of this section.

4. An owner of a solar site may follow practices at the solar site that provide native perennial vegetation and foraging habitat beneficial to pollinators.

5. An owner of a solar site implementing site management practices under this section may claim that the site is pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators only if the site and the site's vegetation management plan adhere to the criteria set forth in the University of Missouri extension service's scorecard described under subsection 3 of this section.

6. An owner making a claim that a solar site is pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators shall make the solar site's completed scorecard and vegetation management plan available to the public and provide a copy to the University of Missouri extension service and a nonprofit solar industry trade association of this state.