

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 517

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RIDDLE.

Read 1st time February 28, 2019, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

2469S.01I

## AN ACT

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

*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  
2 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  
2 be cited as the "Missouri Solar Pollinator Habitat Act".**

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

**4 (1) "Department", the department of agriculture;**

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

**8 (3) "Pollinators", any bees, birds, butterflies, or other animals or  
9 insects, including any wild or managed insects, that pollinate flowering  
10 plants;**

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

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

**16 3. The department, in consultation with other state and  
17 nongovernmental agencies with expertise in pollinators, shall publish  
18 a scorecard that sets forth criteria for making a claim that a solar site  
19 is pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators. The scorecard  
20 shall be available on the website of the department within six months  
21 of the effective date of this section.**

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

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

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

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Bill

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