

## SENATE BILL NO. 247

INTRODUCED BY M. PHILLIPS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "~~AN ACT CREATING THE SAVING MONTANA'S POLLINATORS ACT;~~  
5 ~~PROHIBITING THE OUTDOOR USE OF NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT~~  
6 ~~AND PENALTIES; REQUIRING REPORTING; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING~~  
7 ~~EFFECTIVE DATES~~ REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PREPARE A STATE  
8 POLLINATOR REPORT; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."  
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10 WHEREAS, pollination services, including by honey bees and numerous other pollinators, are a vital part  
11 of agricultural production in Montana; and

12 ~~WHEREAS, one-third of food produced in North America depends on pollination by honey bees, including~~  
13 ~~nearly 95 varieties of fruits and other foods of high nutritional value to all of Montana's citizens; and~~

14 ~~WHEREAS, over the past several years, documented incidents of colony collapse disorder and excessive~~  
15 ~~honey bee mortality have been at a record high, with some beekeepers losing large portions of their operations~~  
16 ~~and suffering reduced production of their valuable honey; and~~

17 ~~WHEREAS, scientists link the use of systemic neonicotinoid insecticides to the rapid decline of honey~~  
18 ~~bees and other pollinators and to the deterioration of pollinator health. This class of insecticides damages the~~  
19 ~~central nervous system of insects, causing tremors, paralysis, and death at very low doses. They are systemic~~  
20 ~~insecticides, meaning they are absorbed into treated plants and distributed throughout their vascular systems.~~  
21 ~~As a result, treating a plant or coating a seed with neonicotinoid insecticides can render parts of the~~  
22 ~~plant—including the roots, leaves, stems, flowers, nectar, pollen, and guttation fluid—toxic to insects. Neonicotinoid~~  
23 ~~insecticides are persistent in soil and easily transported via air, dust, and water; and~~

24 ~~WHEREAS, neonicotinoid insecticides cause sublethal effects, including impaired foraging and feeding~~  
25 ~~behavior, disorientation, weakened immunity, delayed larval development, and increased susceptibility to viruses,~~  
26 ~~diseases, and parasites, and numerous studies have also demonstrated acute, lethal effects from the application~~  
27 ~~of these toxins. They also kill or weaken beneficial invertebrates, birds, and other wildlife, through direct and~~  
28 ~~indirect effects; and~~

29 ~~WHEREAS, bumblebees, beneficial insects of all kinds, and whole food chains of aquatic invertebrates,~~  
30 ~~insects, birds, bats, and other pollinators in Montana are at risk from environmental contamination by highly~~

1 persistent neonicotinoid insecticides; and

2 ~~WHEREAS, scientists find that the use of neonicotinoid insecticides in seed treatment is harmful to birds.~~

3 ~~Recent science demonstrates that consumption of a single corn kernel coated with neonicotinoid insecticides is~~

4 ~~toxic enough to kill a medium-sized songbird; and~~

5 ~~WHEREAS, in 2013, the European Union voted to suspend use of three major neonicotinoid~~

6 ~~insecticides--imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam--on certain agricultural crops pending a review of their~~

7 ~~safety. In the United States, some states, including New York, Connecticut, and Maryland, restrict some~~

8 ~~neonicotinoid insecticide uses to address their risks.~~

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10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 (Refer to Introduced Bill)

12 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

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14 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Pollinator report -- requirements -- deadline. (1) Before September 1,  
15 2018, the department of agriculture shall prepare a state pollinator report, which must include but is not limited  
16 to:

17 (a) an assessment of current applications of neonicotinoid insecticides to pollinators;

18 (b) a proposal to efficiently and effectively create and enhance pollinator nesting and foraging habitat  
19 in the state, including the establishment of pollinator reserves or refuges; and

20 (c) recommendations for best management practices and habitat restoration guidelines for pollinator  
21 habitat enhancement.

22 (2) The department shall:

23 (a) publish electronically the report prepared under subsection (1) and make it available for public  
24 comment; and

25 (b) address and incorporate public comment into the report and provide a final report to the  
26 environmental quality council and the legislature pursuant to 5-11-210.

27 (3) The department may seek federal or private funds to meet the requirements of this section.

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29 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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