WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has been
invested with the power and duty to supervise and control the protection, development, planning
and utilization of the natural resources of the state, including insects, and to promote agriculture
in the state, and to regulate the registration and application of pesticides in the state; and

WHEREAS, Pollinators including bees provide invaluable ecosystems services that are
crucial to wellbeing in the state; and

WHEREAS, Populations of pollinators including bees have been subject to stress and
impairment in the United States and elsewhere to the extent that pollinator habitat and health have
become matters of reasonable, significant public and environmental concern; and

WHEREAS, The causes of this stress and impairment may be multiple and are the
subject of active, on-going studies that can yield advances in understanding of how to improve
conditions and practices affecting pollinator habitat and health; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island currently lacks a systematic and comprehensive assessment of
such studies and advances in understanding and how they might be applied to the benefit of
Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests the Director of the Department of
Environmental Management to convene a working group of not less than seven nor more than
eleven members, which shall include a representative of the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and between five and nine members appointed by the Director, not more than one of whom may be a representative of the Department, and which appointments shall be made with the purpose of providing for fair balance and representation of interests concerned with the issues to be considered by the working group; and be it further

RESOLVED, The working group shall be charged with: (a) Making findings with regard to: (1) Developments in the scientific and technical understanding of conditions and practices affecting pollinator populations; (2) Conditions and practices affecting the maintenance, protection, and enhancement of pollinator habitat and health in Rhode Island; (3) Potential costs and benefits of changing such conditions and practices; and (b) With making recommendations, based on its findings, to maintain, protect, and enhance pollinator health and habitat in Rhode Island; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Director shall designate one member of the working group to be its coordinator /presiding officer and the meetings of the working group shall be open to the public and shall be posted by the Department in accordance with the Open Meetings Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island in collaboration with other members of the working group, to provide such administrative, staff and logistical support as the working group may require; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives respectfully requests that the working group provides a written report of its finding and recommendations to the Director and to the House of Representatives on or before February 15, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

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