

HOUSE BILL No. 2623

By Committee on Agriculture

2-11

1 AN ACT concerning energy; relating to electric generation; solar power;
2 state biological survey; establishing requirements for pollinator-
3 friendly solar sites; amending K.S.A. 74-6607 and repealing the
4 existing section.

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 New Section 1. (a) In consultation with other state and
8 nongovernmental entities with pollinator expertise, the state biological
9 survey shall publish a pollinator-friendly solar site scorecard. The
10 scorecard shall be posted on the biological survey's website on or before
11 January 1, 2021.

12 (b) An owner of a solar site may claim that such site is pollinator-
13 friendly or provides benefits to pollinators if:

14 (1) Such site and the site's vegetation management plan adheres to the
15 state biological survey's scorecard criteria; and

16 (2) the owner implements solar site management practices upon such
17 site.

18 (c) An owner of a solar site that claims that such site is pollinator-
19 friendly or provides benefits to pollinators shall make the solar site's
20 completed scorecard and vegetation management plan available to the
21 public and submit a copy to the state biological survey for publishing
22 pursuant to K.S.A. 74-6607, and amendments thereto, and any nonprofit
23 solar industry trade associations of this state.

24 (d) The provisions of this section shall be known and may be cited as
25 the Kansas solar pollinator habitat act.

26 (e) As used in this act:

27 (1) "Native perennial vegetation" means perennial Kansas
28 wildflowers, shrubs, grasses or other plants that serve as beneficial habitat,
29 forage or migratory way stations for pollinators;

30 (2) "pollinators" means bees, birds, butterflies and other insects or
31 wildlife that pollinate flowering plants, including wild and managed
32 insects;

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

35 (4) "solar site management practice" means the implementation of
36 any practice or method on or around a solar site that provides native

1 perennial vegetation and foraging habitat around such site that is beneficial
 2 to pollinators and reduces stormwater runoff or erosion; and

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

6 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 74-6607 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-
 7 6607. The state biological survey is hereby authorized and empowered to:

8 (a) Adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of
 9 K.S.A. 77-415 et seq. *and amendments thereto*, for:

10 (1) -The selection, acquisition, management, protection and use of
 11 natural and scientific areas and preserves; ~~for~~

12 (2) -the registration of natural and scientific areas and preserves; ~~for~~
 13 *and*

14 (3) -the dedication of natural and scientific areas and preserves within
 15 the state system;

16 (b) develop a natural and scientific areas preservation policy for the
 17 state;

18 (c) develop a comprehensive long-range plan for the preservation,
 19 control and management of the natural and scientific areas of the state;

20 (d) seek and approve the dedication of natural and scientific areas to
 21 be included in the state system;

22 (e) maintain a registry of natural and scientific areas, an inventory of
 23 natural ecosystems; an inventory of habitats of rare and endangered
 24 species of plants and animals; significant geological and archeological
 25 sites; and other natural and scientific areas and preserves;

26 (f) *publish a pollinator-friendly solar site scorecard and maintain a*
 27 *registry of such completed scorecards and corresponding vegetation*
 28 *management plans pursuant to section 1, amendments and thereto;*

29 (g) conduct research, investigations; and interpretive programs and
 30 publish and disseminate information and recommendations pertaining to
 31 natural and scientific preserves and other natural and scientific areas;

32 ~~(g)(h)~~ employ or contract for consultants ~~and fix their compensations;~~
 33 who shall be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act
 34 *and fix their compensations;*

35 ~~(h)(i)~~ submit to the governor and the legislature annually its
 36 recommendations for new or amendatory legislation and funding for the
 37 preservation of the state's natural and scientific areas; and submit to the
 38 secretary of state in even numbered years a report of its activities for
 39 inclusion in the biennial report in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A.
 40 75-3044 et seq. *and amendments thereto.*

41 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 74-6607 is hereby repealed.

42 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
 43 publication in the statute book.