

HOUSE No. 3417

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul McMurtry

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a committee studying bee colony collapse.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Leonard Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 3417

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3417) of Paul McMurtry and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to solutions to prevent the collapsing of bee colonies. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act to establish a committee studying bee colony collapse.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) That a committee, to consist of: 2 members of the senate, 2 members of
2 the house of representatives, the secretary of agriculture, or a designee who shall serve as chair
3 and 8 persons to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a university faculty member
4 specializing in the science of pollinator health; 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group
5 for nurseries and greenhouse producers; 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for
6 farmers; 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group dedicated to the protection of pollinators
7 and invertebrates; 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group dedicated to environmental
8 protection; 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for retailers; 1 of whom is certified as a
9 master gardener, representing the public; and 1 of whom shall be a beekeeper, representing the
10 Massachusetts Beekeeper Association, is hereby established pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4
11 for the purpose of making an investigation and study of methods and solutions to prevent bee
12 colony collapse.

13 (b) The committee shall undertake activities to examine issues relevant to bee colony
14 collapse, including but not limited to:

15 (i) studying proposed and enacted pesticide regulations from other states and countries
16 that are more protective of pollinator health than the pesticide regulations of the United States
17 Environmental Protection Agency;

18 (ii) studying public education and outreach plans regarding pollinator health that have
19 been successful in other states;

20 (iii) evaluating the effectiveness of applicator licensing and other legal requirements,
21 and of incentives, in matters affecting pollinator health;

22 (iv) identifying possible funding streams for efforts to promote or protect
23 pollinator health;

24 (v) investigating the means used by other states to gather data on populations of bees
25 or other pollinating insects; and

26 (vi) evaluating existing best management practices for applying neonicotinoids in a
27 manner that avoids harming pollinating insects.

28 (c) The committee may take actions necessary and proper to carry out the work of the
29 task force, including but not limited to scheduling hearings and taking testimony on matters
30 related to pollinator health.

31 (d) The committee shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and
32 study and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its

33 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the
34 house of representatives on or before June 30, 2016.

35 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon the specific day of its approval by the
36 governor of the Commonwealth.