



2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 70

July 12, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives SNODGRASS, CONSIDINE, ANDERSON, ANDRACA, BALDEH, BEHNKE, BILLINGS, CABRAL-GUEVARA, CABRERA, CONLEY, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, OHNSTAD, NEUBAUER, S. RODRIGUEZ, SHANKLAND, SHELTON, SINICKI, SPREITZER, STUBBS, SUBECK and VINING, cosponsored by Senators PFAFF, AGARD, SMITH, CARPENTER, LARSON, ROYS, L. TAYLOR and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** designating June 2021 as Pollinator Awareness Month in Wisconsin.

2 Whereas, bees, butterflies, and other pollinator species have a critically
3 important role in agriculture in the United States and help to produce a healthy and
4 affordable food supply and sustain ecosystem health; and

5 Whereas, pollinators are responsible for the reproduction of 90 percent of the
6 world's wild plant species by providing them with a healthy habitat rich in a variety
7 of native plants that are free or nearly free of pesticides; and

8 Whereas, thanks to the more than 400 species of native pollinators in
9 Wisconsin, along with honeybees, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits,
10 nuts, and vegetables; and

11 Whereas, pollinators help to produce an estimated one out of every three bites
12 of food consumed in the United States and help reproduce at least 80 percent of
13 flowering plants; and

14 Whereas, commodities produced in partnership with animal pollinators
15 generate \$6.5 million in annual production, with domestic honeybees alone

1 pollinating an estimated \$14.6 billion worth of crops in the United States each year
2 produced on more than two million acres; and

3 Whereas, there are approximately 20,000 bee species in the world, 3,600 in the
4 United States, and 400 in Wisconsin; and

5 Whereas, in Wisconsin, pollinator-dependent crops are harvested on over
6 100,800 acres, with apple, cranberry, cherry, green bean, and pickling cucumber
7 crops accounting for over \$230 million in annual production; and

8 Whereas, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due
9 to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and
10 diseases; and

11 Whereas, residents of Wisconsin have the opportunity to support bees and other
12 pollinators on both public and private land; and

13 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin seeks to ensure a healthy environment and
14 create policies that sustain our environment; and

15 Whereas, supporting native honeybees and other pollinators promotes
16 environmental awareness, sustainability, and increases interactions among
17 community stewards such as commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers,
18 children, educators, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities,
19 neighborhoods, and garden clubs and suppliers; and

20 Whereas, the ideal pollinator-friendly habitat provides diverse and abundant
21 nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing
22 season; provides undisturbed spaces such as leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields
23 or field margins, and fallen trees and other dead wood for nesting and overwintering
24 for wild pollinators; provides water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting
25 stored honey, and butterfly puddling; is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried

