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MEMORANDUM

To: The House Standing Agriculture Committee
From: Kansas Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 18, 2020
RE: House Bill 2623

House Bill 2623 would create a program to allow owners of solar sites to claim that their sites are pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators.

The bill defines pollinators as "bees, birds, butterflies, and other insects or wildlife that pollinate flowering plants." Solar sites are defined as "a ground-mounted solar system for generating electricity that is at least one acre in size." A vegetation management plan is defined as "a written document that includes short- and long-term solar site management practices that will provide and maintain native perennial vegetation." That native perennial vegetation is defined as "perennial Kansas wildflowers, shrubs, grasses or other plants that serve as beneficial habitat, forage or migratory way stations for pollinators."

The bill directs the Kansas biological survey to consult with other state and nongovernmental entities who have pollinator expertise to develop a pollinator-friendly scorecard. Such scorecard shall be posted on the biological survey's website on or before January 1, 2021.

An owner of a solar site may claim that their site is pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators if the site and the site's vegetation management plan adhere to the biological survey's scorecard and the owner has implemented solar site management practices that provide a habitat around the site that is beneficial to pollinators and reduces stormwater runoff or erosion.

An owner who claims their site is pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators is required to make a copy of their complete scorecard and vegetation management plan public. The owner is also required to submit copies of the scorecard and plan to the biological survey and any other nonprofit solar industry trade associations in Kansas.

Additionally, House Bill 2623 would amend the state biological survey's duties in K.S.A. 74-6607 to include publishing the scorecard and maintaining a registry of completed scorecards and corresponding vegetation management plans.

House Bill 2623 would be effective upon publication in the statute book.