



**HOUSE SPACE, SCIENCE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**

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MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS 2016



THE CIVICS & GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE

**Committee: House Committee on Space,
Science, and Technology**

Principal Authors: Nora Fried

Bill No: 11092318

Co-Authors: Molly Povich, Leila Alidoost

Title of Bill: An Act to Save the Bees

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CIVICS & GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

1 *Whereas* bees are flying insects known for their important role in pollination as well as honey
2 and beeswax production; *Whereas* according to the National Resources Defense Council
3 without bee polination the international food market would collapse due to scarcity of
4 produce; *Whereas* according to the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization, 90% of the
5 world’s food supply comes from 100 crop species and 71 of these critical 100 rely heavily
6 on bees for polination; *Whereas* bee activity generates \$15 billion a year in produce profits
7 (World Wildlife Fund); *Whereas* climate change, pathogens, habitat loss, persticide and
8 inceleticide use, and colony collapse disorder have drastically decreased the population of
9 bees in the past 50 years (WWF); *Whereas* species such as the rusty patched bumble bee
10 have lost over 80% of its historic range and are on the verge of endangerment (NRDC);
11 *Whereas* the EPA is working aggressively to protect bees used for polination services but
12 bee population continues to decline.

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14 Section 1: This bill requires the EPA to suspend all chemical pesticides, inceleticide, and
15 fungisides, that come in contact with pollinating bees until the bee population is returned to
16 sustainable levels.

17 a. Sustainable levels for the bee population will be determind by EPA scientists.

18 Section 2: 1 million dollars will be allocated from the Ways and Means Committee to fund
19 coninual bee research and help sustain and bolster current bee populations.

20 a. \$600,000 will be allocated to further research.

21 b. \$400,000 will be allocated to beekeepers and farmers.

22 Section 3: This bill will be enacted in 91 days.

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Bees Bill Brief

The colony numbers of bees in the United States has dropped to their lowest in 50 years. Bees act as pollinators in ecosystems worldwide, and are therefore crucial to the reproduction of more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. In the United States alone, the pollination services of bees have generated over \$15 billion worth of crops. The products of these pollinations include crops like apples, berries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, alfalfa, and almonds. Unfortunately, a disorder called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), which is caused by a combination of global warming, loss of habitat, pesticide exposure, invasive parasites, and inadequate food supply, has drastically decreased the amount of bee populations. Since 2006, almost 1/3 of all honey bee colonies in the US have disappeared. Those in favor of this bill might argue that steps need to be taken, such as those in this bill, to protect bee populations before it is too late. Opposers of this legislation might however, find that this bill too heavily restricts farmers in their usage of certain pesticides and similar products, and that too much money is invested in this endeavor.

Check out these websites!

<https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/proposal-protect-bees-acutely-toxic-pesticides>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/fall-2014/articles/honeybees-farms-and-the-push-to-fix-our-global-food-system>

<https://beeinformed.org/results/a-national-survey-of-managed-honey-bee-2014-2015-annual-colony-losses-in-the-usa/>

<http://www.theecologycenter.org/news/10-reasons-why-bees-matter>

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/giulia-cs-good-stefani/bumble-bees-peril>

If you have any questions feel free to email lalidoost17@gmail.com, nfried17@gmail.com, or mollypovich@gmail.com

Good luck!

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Department: House Committee on Space,
Science, and Technology

Principal Authors: Molly Povich, Nora
Fried, and Leila Alidoost

Bill No:

Co-Authors:

Title of Bill: An Act to Encourage Composting Nationwide

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CIVICS & GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

1 *Whereas* landfills are known to increase air pollution by releasing hazardous gases into the
2 atmosphere, the most dangerous of which is methane; *whereas* landfills can also be
3 accredited to causing groundwater pollution, most notably by the carcinogen TCE that is
4 found in landfill runoff, of which it takes four drops to make an average sized swimming
5 pool undrinkable; *whereas* these effects of landfills are dangerous for both the environment
6 and human health; *whereas* composting reduces the amount of waste that is
7 sent to landfills; *whereas* a school of just 200 students creates on average 75 pounds of
8 waste each week that could be composted, or over 3,000 pounds per year; *whereas*
9 compost is a soil-additive and plant fertilizer; *whereas* composting works without the use
10 of artificial fertilizers which frequently contain too much nitrogen; *whereas* composting
11 betters soil structure and contains microbes that create antibiotics; *whereas* healthier soil
12 provides cleaner and healthier produce.

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14 **Section 1:** States shall be encouraged to implement composting in their public school
15 systems.

16 a. This should apply to all food waste created in the school cafeterias.

17 b. It shall be recommended that participating schools use the compost they generate to
18 support and fertilize their own gardening efforts.

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20 **Section 2:** States that do not encourage composting in their public schools shall receive an
21 8% decrease in highway funding.

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23 **Section 3:** This bill will go into effect 91 days after passage.

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Compost Bill Brief

Compost is a combination of decaying organic substances, including yard waste such as leaves, leaf meal and small twigs sometimes mixed with manure.

Composting is primarily utilized to increase the fertility of soil. Composts are composed primarily of plant-based materials, but manure has also commonly been used to replenish depleted soils and naturally provide plants with essential nutrients. Composting provides a plethora of environmental benefits. First, composting boosts plant health, improves soil structure, and contains microbes that produce antibiotics. Composting also promotes chemical activity in the soil, which converts nutrients to plant-friendly forms, keeps them from leaching out of the soil, and nourishes fungi that transport nutrients from deep in the earth to plant roots. In addition, composting helps combat widespread issues by preventing both air and water pollution, while breaking down certain toxic chemicals, immobilizing others, and removing others from polluted soil. Even more, composting is able to raise pH in acidic soils and lower it in alkaline soils, improving water retention in sandy soils and drainage in clay soils as well. Someone in favor of this bill would argue vehemently on the importance of composting as a well-implemented practice, and encourage schools to introduce composting. Someone opposed to this bill, might believe that despite their views on composting, it is difficult to suddenly and quickly force on schools and that the punishment against schools who do not comply is too harsh.

Check out these websites!

<https://www.planetnatural.com/composting-101/benefits/>

<http://www.improvenet.com/r/costs-and-prices/composting>

If you have any questions feel free to email lalidoost17@gmail.com, nfried17@gmail.com, or mollypovich@gmail.com

Good luck!

