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Date: (Filing No. H-)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 858, L.D. 1323, “An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans and the Environment'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Legislature understands that bees and other pollinators face many threats such as loss of habitat, extreme heat and drought, flooding, wildfires, diseases, Varroa mites and competition from nonnative insects; and

Whereas, the Legislature finds it is important to understand the impact of neonicotinoids, including neonicotinoid-treated seeds, on pollinators; to develop strategies to mitigate the risks of neonicotinoid exposure; and to protect pollinator populations; and

Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period to allow the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to conduct its work as soon as possible so that it may provide a preliminary report to the Legislature by January 15, 2026; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Board of Pesticides Control to study neonicotinoids. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control, referred to in this resolve as "the board," shall study:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

- 1 1. The impacts of neonicotinoids, including neonicotinoid-treated seeds, on
- 2 pollinators;
- 3 2. The costs and benefits of neonicotinoid-treated seeds compared to untreated seeds,
- 4 including the market availability of neonicotinoid-treated seeds compared to untreated
- 5 seeds;
- 6 3. The impact of neonicotinoids on the environment, including, but not limited to, soil,
- 7 water and plant tissues;
- 8 4. The toxicity of neonicotinoids to humans;
- 9 5. Alternatives to neonicotinoid seed treatments for the protection of crops from
- 10 damaging pests and disease;
- 11 6. The toxicity of effective alternatives to neonicotinoids and neonicotinoid-treated
- 12 seeds that may be used for the protection of crops from damaging pests and disease; and
- 13 7. Methods of application of alternatives to neonicotinoids and neonicotinoid-treated
- 14 seeds and the required number of applications for effectiveness.

15 In conducting the study under this section, the board shall give special consideration to
16 effects on potato crops and corn crops.

17 **Sec. 2. Request for information. Resolved:** That the board shall solicit feedback
18 regarding ideas and insights on the topic of the study, pursuant to section 1, from the public,
19 stakeholders and interested parties through either a public hearing or a request for
20 information document.

21 **Sec. 3. Reports. Resolved:** That the board shall submit a preliminary report to the
22 Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than January
23 15, 2026 and shall submit a final report with findings and recommendations relating to the
24 subject matter of the study under section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
25 having jurisdiction over agricultural matters no later than January 15, 2027. The joint
26 standing committee may submit a bill to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 relating to the
27 subject matter of the final report.

28 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
29 appropriations and allocations are made.

30 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**
31 **Pesticides Control - Board of 0287**

32 Initiative: Provides funding for contractual services to research the effects of
33 neonicotinoids.

34 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
35 All Other	\$156,500	\$0
36		
37 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$156,500</u>	<u>\$0</u>

38 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
39 takes effect when approved.'

40 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
41 number to read consecutively.

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SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. The amendment requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to study the impact of neonicotinoids, including neonicotinoid-treated seeds, on pollinators, humans and the environment. The amendment requires the board to solicit feedback regarding ideas and insights on the topic of the study from the public, stakeholders and interested parties through either a public hearing or a request for information document. The amendment requires the board to submit a preliminary report and a final report with findings and recommendations relating to the subject matter of the study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)