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1   **SENATE BILL NO. 356**
2   Offered January 13, 2016
3   Prefiled January 11, 2016
4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 3.2 a section*
5 *numbered 3.2-108.1, relating to Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy.*
6   ——————

Patron—Deeds

7   ——————
8 Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources
9   ——————
10 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**
11 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 3.2 a section**
12 **numbered 3.2-108.1 as follows:**
13   *§ 3.2-108.1. Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy.*
14   *A. The Department shall develop and maintain a Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy (the*
15 *Strategy) to promote the health of and mitigate the risks to all pollinator species, including honeybees*
16 *and other managed pollinators.*
17   *B. In developing the Strategy, the Department shall seek the assistance of the Department of*
18 *Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Department of*
19 *Environmental Quality and shall seek recommendations from representatives of affected groups including*
20 *beekeepers, agricultural producers, commercial pesticide applicators, private pesticide applicators,*
21 *pesticide manufacturers, retailers, lawn and turf service providers, agribusiness and farmer*
22 *organizations, conservation interests, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension.*
23   *C. The Strategy shall include a plan for the protection of managed pollinators that provides*
24 *voluntary best management practices for pesticide users, beekeepers, and landowners and agricultural*
25 *producers. The protection plan shall also support efforts to:*
26   *1. Reduce the exposure of pollinators to pesticides;*
27   *2. Increase pollinator habitat;*
28   *3. Maintain existing compliance with state pesticide use requirements;*
29   *4. Conduct research on the protection of managed pollinators; and*
30   *5. Educate members of the agricultural economy and the apiary industry.*