

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 7
OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA**

Page 236, strike lines 4 through 8.

Page 260, after line 16, insert the following new section (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

1 **SEC. 1726. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS TO ENCOURAGE**
2 **POLLINATOR HABITAT ON TRANSPORTATION**
3 **RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The roadside vegetation management prac-
6 tices of both State governments and the Federal
7 Government aim to secure motorist safety, reduce
8 the presence of noxious weeds, and stabilize the soil.

9 (2) Federal and State highway departments are
10 facing severe budget shortfalls.

11 (3) Native forbs and grasses are less likely to
12 encroach onto roads than invasive species, such as
13 kudzu.

14 (4) Integrated vegetation management practices
15 will reduce the cost of maintaining roadside vegeta-
16 tion.

1 (5) Native forbs and grasses are best adapted
2 to local conditions and thus require less active man-
3 agement, reducing the need to replant, weed, and
4 mow the areas adjacent to the road.

5 (6) Pollinators, such as bees, birds, bats, and
6 butterflies, are suffering drastic population loss, due
7 in part to loss of habitat.

8 (7) Pollinators are vital for American agri-
9 culture. Responsible for 1 out of every 3 bites of
10 food we eat, a diverse pollinator population is nec-
11 essary for maintaining the diversity of our plant life
12 and food supply.

13 (8) Studies have shown supporting native forbs
14 and grasses along the roadside can be beneficial to
15 the pollinator population by providing migratory cor-
16 ridors and habitat connectivity and by helping such
17 populations adapt to climate change.

18 (9) Enhancing pollinator populations on rights-
19 of-way can result in improved pollination services for
20 neighboring lands, including agriculture and wildlife
21 ecosystems.

22 (10) Highway rights-of-way managed by States
23 represent 17 million acres of pollinator habitat con-
24 servation opportunity, and similar opportunities and
25 benefits exist on other transportation rights-of-way.

1 (b) IN GENERAL.—Section 319 of title 23, United
2 States Code, is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “beauty adja-
4 cent” and inserting “beauty (including the enhance-
5 ment of habitat for pollinators) adjacent”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(c) ENCOURAGEMENT OF POLLINATOR HABITAT
8 DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION ON TRANSPORTATION
9 RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—In carrying out any program adminis-
10 tered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall, in conjunction
11 with the States, as appropriate—

12 “(1) conduct or encourage integrated vegetation
13 management practices on roadsides and other trans-
14 portation rights-of-way, including reduced mowing;

15 “(2) enhance the development of habitat for
16 pollinators through plantings of native forbs and
17 grasses;

18 “(3) encourage leveraging through partnerships
19 and coordination with stakeholders in support of pol-
20 linators and plantings of native forbs and grasses,
21 such as environmental groups, research institutions,
22 other agencies, businesses, and community organiza-
23 tions; and

24 “(4) conduct or facilitate research and dem-
25 onstration projects on the economic and environ-

1 mental benefits and best practices for integrated
2 vegetation management, reduced mowing, and plant-
3 ings of native forbs and grasses for pollinator habi-
4 tat.”.

5 (c) PROVISION OF HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS.—
6 Section 329(a)(1) of title 23, United States Code, is
7 amended by inserting “provision of habitat for polli-
8 nators,” before “and aesthetic enhancement”.

9 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit
11 to Congress a report that includes—

12 (1) an analysis of current programs and au-
13 thorities available to carry out section 319(c) of title
14 23, United States Code;

15 (2) a summary of programs and authorities
16 being used to implement such section;

17 (3) an assessment of actions being taken by
18 State transportation departments and other man-
19 agers of transportation rights-of-way to implement
20 integrated vegetation management practices, reduce
21 mowing, and enhance habitat for pollinators through
22 plantings of native forbs and grasses; and

23 (4) any recommendations for further action.

