

AN ACT concerning solar sites.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Pollinator Friendly Solar Site Act.

Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

"Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.

"Exotic weed" has the same meaning ascribed to the term in Section 2 of the Illinois Exotic Weed Act.

"Noxious weed" has the same meaning ascribed to the term in Section 2 of the Illinois Noxious Weed Law.

Section 10. Site management practices. An owner of a ground-mounted solar site may follow practices that: (1) provide native perennial vegetation and foraging habitat which is beneficial to game birds, songbirds, and pollinators; and (2) reduce storm water runoff and erosion at the solar site. To the extent practicable, if establishing perennial vegetation and beneficial foraging habitat, a solar site owner or manager shall use native plant species and seed mixes that are free from noxious weed or exotic weed seeds.

Section 15. Recognition of beneficial habitat. An owner or

manager of a solar site with a generating capacity of more than 40 kilowatts implementing site management practices under this Act may claim that the site is "pollinator-friendly" or provides benefits to game birds, songbirds, and pollinators only if the site adheres to guidance set forth by the pollinator friendly scorecard published by the Department in consultation with the University of Illinois, Department of Entomology. The scorecard shall be posted on the Department's website on or before 6 months after the effective date of this Act. An owner making a beneficial habitat claim shall make the solar site's pollinator scorecard, and where available, related vegetation management plans, available to the public and provide a copy to the Department and a nonprofit solar industry trade association of this State.

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.