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):

SEC. 1726. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS TO ENCOURAGE POLLINATOR HABITAT ON TRANSPORTATION RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The roadside vegetation management practices of both State governments and the Federal Government aim to secure motorist safety, reduce the presence of noxious weeds, and stabilize the soil.

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

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

(4) Integrated vegetation management practices will reduce the cost of maintaining roadside vegetation.
(5) Native forbs and grasses are best adapted to local conditions and thus require less active management, reducing the need to replant, weed, and mow the areas adjacent to the road.

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

(7) Pollinators are vital for American agriculture. Responsible for 1 out of every 3 bites of food we eat, a diverse pollinator population is necessary for maintaining the diversity of our plant life and food supply.

(8) Studies have shown supporting native forbs and grasses along the roadside can be beneficial to the pollinator population by providing migratory corridors and habitat connectivity and by helping such populations adapt to climate change.

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

(10) Highway rights-of-way managed by States represent 17 million acres of pollinator habitat conservation opportunity, and similar opportunities and benefits exist on other transportation rights-of-way.
(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 319 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “beauty adjacent” and inserting “beauty (including the enhancement of habitat for pollinators) adjacent”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

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

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

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

“(3) encourage leveraging through partnerships and coordination with stakeholders in support of pollinators and plantings of native forbs and grasses, such as environmental groups, research institutions, other agencies, businesses, and community organizations; and

“(4) conduct or facilitate research and demonstration projects on the economic and environ-
mental benefits and best practices for integrated vegetation management, reduced mowing, and plantings of native forbs and grasses for pollinator habitat.”.

(c) **PROVISION OF HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS.**—Section 329(a)(1) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting “provision of habitat for pollinators,” before “and aesthetic enhancement”.

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

(1) an analysis of current programs and authorities available to carry out section 319(c) of title 23, United States Code;

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

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

(4) any recommendations for further action.