
SENATE BILL 5468

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Morton, Fraser, Newhouse, Oke and Jacobsen

Read first time 01/27/97. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to apiaries; amending RCW 7.48.310; adding a new
2 section to chapter 15.60 RCW; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature declares that it is the
5 policy of this state to promote beekeeping to maintain and enhance the
6 pollination of plants for the production of commercial and
7 noncommercial products. In support of this policy the legislature
8 declares its recognition and support for efforts to enhance and
9 encourage beekeeping operations in urban and rural areas of the state
10 that benefit a wide range of activities such as commercial agriculture,
11 gardening, and pollination of wildlife-supporting plants.

12 It is the intent of the legislature to recognize the keeping of
13 bees for pollination of agricultural products as an agricultural
14 activity to aid in protection of this essential activity from nuisance
15 lawsuits.

16 It is the intent of the legislature in sections 3 and 4 of this act
17 for the apiary advisory committee to provide advice and input to state
18 agencies that own and manage lands regarding the means necessary to

1 enhance the pollination of plants on state-owned lands while furnishing
2 pasture for honey bees.

3 It is further the intent of this act to minimize inconsistent
4 regulation of beekeeping through ordinances adopted by local
5 governments by providing for the development of a model honey bee
6 management system as an advisory tool available to interested local
7 governments.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 7.48.310 and 1992 c 52 s 4 are each amended to read as
9 follows:

10 As used in RCW 7.48.305:

11 (1) "Agricultural activity" means a condition or activity which
12 occurs on a farm in connection with the commercial production of farm
13 products and includes, but is not limited to, marketed produce at
14 roadside stands or farm markets; noise; odors; dust; fumes; operation
15 of machinery and irrigation pumps; movement, including, but not limited
16 to, use of current county road ditches, streams, rivers, canals, and
17 drains, and use of water for agricultural activities; ground and aerial
18 application of seed, fertilizers, conditioners, and plant protection
19 products; keeping of bees for pollination of agricultural products and
20 gardens; employment and use of labor; roadway movement of equipment and
21 livestock; protection from damage by wildlife; prevention of trespass;
22 construction and maintenance of buildings, fences, roads, bridges,
23 ponds, drains, waterways, and similar features and maintenance of
24 streambanks and watercourses; and conversion from one agricultural
25 activity to another.

26 (2) "Farm" means the land, buildings, freshwater ponds, freshwater
27 culturing and growing facilities, and machinery used in the commercial
28 production of farm products.

29 (3) "Farmland" means land or freshwater ponds devoted primarily to
30 the production, for commercial purposes, of livestock, freshwater
31 aquacultural, or other agricultural commodities.

32 (4) "Farm product" means those plants and animals useful to humans
33 and includes, but is not limited to, forages and sod crops, dairy and
34 dairy products, poultry and poultry products, livestock, including
35 breeding, grazing, and recreational equine use, fruits, vegetables,
36 flowers, seeds, grasses, trees, freshwater fish and fish products,
37 apiaries, equine and other similar products, or any other product which
38 incorporates the use of food, feed, fiber, or fur.

1 (5) "Forest practice" means "forest practice" as defined in RCW
2 76.09.020.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The commissioner of public lands shall
4 confer with the apiary advisory committee established under RCW
5 15.60.010, for the purpose of implementing the policy under section 1
6 of this act and exploring the benefits to resources that could result
7 from locating additional pollinating bees on lands managed by the
8 department of natural resources. The discussion shall also include the
9 benefits to beekeepers of making additional pasture for domesticated
10 bees available at a reasonable cost.

11 The department shall report to the legislature by December 1, 1997,
12 on actions taken to implement the policy in section 1 of this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of fish and wildlife shall
14 confer with the apiary advisory committee established under RCW
15 15.60.010, for the purpose of implementing the policy under section 1
16 of this act and exploring the benefits to resources that could result
17 from locating additional pollinating bees on lands managed by the
18 department of fish and wildlife. The discussion shall also include the
19 benefits to beekeepers of making additional pasture for domesticated
20 bees available at a reasonable cost.

21 The department shall report to the legislature by December 1, 1997,
22 on actions taken to implement the policy in section 1 of this act.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 15.60 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 Upon the request and recommendation from the apiary advisory
26 committee established under RCW 15.60.010, the director may establish,
27 by rule, a model honey bee management system for the keeping of bees.
28 The department shall make available copies of the model system to local
29 governments or citizens upon request for their use as a guide in
30 developing local ordinances.

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