

Enrolled House Bill 2653

Sponsored by Representative GORSEK; Representatives HELM, LIVELY, WITT (at the request of Raine Lee Ritalto) (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to location of apiaries.

Whereas residential beekeepers contribute to the overall stability of pollinator populations within urban areas when using safe and sound beekeeping practices; and

Whereas education related to bees and beekeeping helps reduce conflicts, informs local decision makers of the means to minimize nuisance complaints related to backyard beekeeping, and increases the acceptance of residential beekeeping by neighbors; and

Whereas the creation of best practice documentation for residential beekeeping can provide a means for developing good local policies that facilitate healthy and safe apiary practices; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2015 Act are added to and made a part of ORS chapter 602.

SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon State University Extension Service, in consultation with the State Department of Agriculture and beekeeping organizations, shall establish by written policy best practices for beekeeping within residential areas.

(2) The policy set forth under subsection (1) of this section shall include recommendations to address:

(a) The application of local nuisance ordinances to manage conflicts that arise from beekeeping within residential areas;

(b) Methods for mitigating conflicts that arise from beekeeping within residential areas; and

(c) Local government oversight of beekeeping activities within residential areas.

(3) The Oregon State University Extension Service shall collaborate with the League of Oregon Cities and the Association of Oregon Counties to:

(a) Disseminate the best practices described in subsection (1) of this section to local governments; and

(b) Make information about the activity of beekeeping in residential areas available to the governing bodies of local governments and the general public.

SECTION 3. A local government may:

(1) Adopt ordinances consistent with the best practices described in section 2 of this 2015 Act; and

(2) Charge a reasonable fee for registering hives in residential areas in accordance with the rules established in ORS 602.090.

SECTION 4. A local government shall review existing ordinances and determine whether to adopt new ordinances relating to residential beekeeping within three years of the effective date of this 2015 Act.

Passed by House June 26, 2015

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 30, 2015

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2015

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2015

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2015

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Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State