

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2653

Ordered by the House April 8
Including House Amendments dated April 8

Sponsored by Representative GORSEK; Representatives HELM, LIVELY, WITT (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Requires State Department of Agriculture to establish standards for locating apiaries in residential zones in Oregon.]

Requires Oregon State University Extension Service, in consultation with State Department of Agriculture and beekeeping organizations, to establish best practices for beekeeping within residential areas.

Requires extension service to collaborate with League of Oregon Cities and Association of Oregon Counties to disseminate best practices and information about beekeeping in residential areas.

Permits local governments to adopt ordinances consistent with best practices for beekeeping in residential areas.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to location of apiaries.

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

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

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

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

12 **SECTION 1.** **Sections 2 and 3 of this 2015 Act are added to and made part of ORS chapter**
13 **602.**

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

17 **(2) The policy set forth under subsection (1) of this section shall include recommen-**
18 **dations to address:**

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

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

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

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

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

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

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

7 **SECTION 3.** **A local government may:**

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

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

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