

**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 (Pre-session 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.**