

## 2015 HB 3362 Pollinator Research and Outreach Fix

Rep. Jeff Reardon: HB 2533



In the 2015 legislative session, we passed HB 3362. This bill:

- Established a reporting system for pollinator die-offs;
- Increased pesticide registration fees and apiary registration fees to provide extra funding for pollinator health-related activities;
- Directed Oregon State University to create educational materials on pollinator health.

The bill required that anyone who owns or is in charge of five or more colonies would be required to register with the State Department of Agriculture. The application for registration would not exceed \$10 per application and \$.50 per colony. All moneys collected pursuant to the registrations are to be spent on pollinator research.

However, during the rulemaking process, there was never any specificity about which hives and colonies would require registration. There are two types of colonies:

1. **Pollinator Colony** (also known as a production colony): this is a colony that is used for the primary purpose of providing pollination service for agriculture or horticulture crops and: (a) If used for only orchard crops has a comb area of at least 600 inches<sup>2</sup> and an estimated population of 14,000 or more adult bees; or (b) If used in whole or in part for field crops has a comb area of at least 1,000 inches<sup>2</sup> and an estimated population of 24,000 or more adult bees.
2. **Nucleus Colony**: a small honey bee colony created from larger colonies but not used for production purposes; are smaller hives, in smaller boxes, usually intended to have another queen in case a pollinator production colony goes queen less, or use the bees in the nucleus colony to boost the populations of weak production hives.

Beekeepers would be forced to pay registration for both types of colonies, when only one colony is intended for production purposes.

**This bill simply exempts and defines nucleus colonies from the registration needs and fees.**