

HB 2533 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/28, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines "pollinator colony" as colony used for primary purpose of providing pollination service for agricultural or horticultural crops and meeting certain size requirements. Specifies that fees charged by a local government for registering hives must not be higher than fee charged by Oregon Department of Agriculture for registration of pollinator colonies. Clarifies registration fee applies specifically to pollinator colonies.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mass bee die off in Wilsonville area
- Research station on pollinator health at Oregon State University
- Difference between pollinator (or production) colonies and nucleus colonies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Specifies that per application fee and per colony fee applies only to pollinator colonies and not to nucleus colonies.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3362 (2015) 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; and 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 Oregon Department of Agriculture. The fee for registration was set at no more than \$10 per application and \$0.50 per colony, with all moneys collected to be spent on pollinator research.

There are two types of colonies that require registration under HB 3362 (2015): pollinator colonies, also known as production colonies, which are used for the primary purpose of providing pollination service to agriculture or horticulture crops, and which are above a certain size; and nucleus colonies, which are small honey bee colonies, typically created from larger colonies, but not used for production purposes.

House Bill 2533 would differentiate between pollinator colonies and nucleus colonies, for the purpose of requiring registration and charging registration fees. The -1 amendments further clarify that only pollinator colonies are subject to application and registration fees.