

HB 2533 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/19, 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines "nucleus colony" as colony used primarily to produce new queens or workers for purpose of starting a new colony or adding to an existing colony. Specifies that fees charged by a local government for registering hives in residential areas must not be higher than fee charged by Oregon Department of Agriculture for registration of colonies. Stipulates no per application fee or per colony fee to register a nucleus colony.

House Vote: Passed. Ayes, 60

Has minimal fiscal impact, no revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of nucleus bee colony
- Fee on nucleus colonies was an unintended outcome of 2015 pollinator legislation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Anyone who owns or is in charge of five or more bee colonies is required to register with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. House Bill 3362 (2015) set the registration fee at no more than \$10 per application and \$0.50 per colony, with all moneys collected to be spent on pollinator research. The measure also 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.

House Bill 2533A would define a nucleus colony and exempt such colonies from both application and per colony registration fees.