

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6255

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As of January 16, 1998

**Title:** An act relating to apiaries.

**Brief Description:** Modifying the duties of the apiary committee and repealing the industry apiary program.

**Sponsors:** Senator Morton.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Agriculture & Environment: 1/19/98.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**Staff:** Bob Lee (786-7404)

**Background:** In previous years, the apiary inspection program was established to control the spread of American foul brood and other contagious bee diseases. The program consists of requirements to register the location of hives, the inspection of hives for disease, quarantine of infected hives, and mandatory inspection of bees and used equipment prior to entry into the state.

Methods to control these diseases have been developed, which have resulted in activities performed by the apiary program to change. The program's focus has shifted away from regulation and inspection. A business plan has been developed by the department to establish a new direction for the program.

A consensus has not been reached within the apiary industry as to the direction and need for continuing a program.

**Summary of Bill:** The State Apiary Program is, for the most part, repealed. The Department of Agriculture retains stand-by powers to convene an apiary advisory committee to address any issues that emerge that require immediate action. The department, with advice of the advisory committee, is authorized to adopt rules or take action to eliminate the disease or otherwise mitigate the situation.

The two sources of funding, the pollination service fee and the hive registration fee, are repealed.

Several provisions are repealed including: authority to impound abandoned hives; mandatory inspection of bees and used equipment coming into the state; authority to adopt rules for specifying the identification of bee hives; authority to adopt rules for netting or otherwise handling bees in transit; authority for inspectors to gain access to premises where hives are kept; prescribing bee breeding procedures to prevent importation of Africanized honey bees;

setting colony strengths for bee hives; the list of powers of the director; the list of unlawful acts; and authority to establish apiary coordinated areas.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 13, 1998.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.