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HOUSE BILL 2049

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Chandler and Clements

Read first time 02/18/97. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to research on diseases and pests that threaten the  
2 apiary industry; amending RCW 15.60.040; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the vitality of  
5 the apiary industry is crucial to the vitality of the agricultural  
6 industry. It further finds that the infestation of bees with mites has  
7 become a major threat to the survival of the apiary industry and that,  
8 of the services that can be provided to the industry, research into  
9 means of controlling, eradicating, or responding to such infestations  
10 or controlling the spread of such infestations is the highest priority.  
11 Therefore, the legislature directs that moneys from the industry apiary  
12 program account in the agricultural local fund be used by the state's  
13 land grant university to conduct research regarding the diseases and  
14 pests of bees. The legislature declares that, until the threat to bees  
15 posed by mites is greatly reduced, moneys from the account other than  
16 revenues from fees charged for requested services shall be directed  
17 exclusively to research regarding such mite infestations.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 15.60.040 and 1994 c 178 s 4 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) There is hereby established a fee on the use, by growers of  
4 agricultural crops, of bee pollination services provided by others.  
5 This pollination service fee is in the amount of fifty cents for each  
6 setting of each hive containing a colony that is used by the grower.  
7 The fee shall be paid by the grower using the service, shall be  
8 collected by the beekeeper providing the service, and shall be remitted  
9 by the beekeeper to the department as provided by rules adopted by the  
10 director. All such fees shall be deposited in the industry apiary  
11 program account. Revenues from fees for requested services shall be  
12 used by the director to reimburse the department for providing the  
13 services. Revenues from ((these)) all other fees and assessments  
14 collected under this chapter shall be ((directed to use in providing  
15 services to the apiary industry that assist in ensuring)) used to fund  
16 research regarding diseases and pests of bees that threaten the  
17 vitality and availability of bees for commercial pollination services  
18 for the agricultural industry.

19       (2) There is established an industry apiary program account within  
20 the agricultural local fund. All money collected under this chapter  
21 including fees for requested services, required inspections, or  
22 treatments, registration fees, and apiary assessments shall be placed  
23 in the industry apiary program account. Money in the account may only  
24 be used ((to carry out the purposes of this chapter)) as described in  
25 subsection (1) of this section. No appropriation is required for  
26 disbursement from the industry apiary program account. At the  
27 beginning of each fiscal year, the director shall disburse to  
28 Washington State University for the conduct of research regarding  
29 diseases and pests of bees the moneys in the industry apiary program  
30 account on the last day of the previous fiscal year and derived from  
31 fees and assessments other than those paid for requested service.

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