

## **To all beekeepers -practiced, new & prospective alike:**

We call your attention to two bills related to beekeeping that are now under review by the Tennessee General Assembly.

### **House Bill 1670 by Metheny** (Coffee & part of Warren Counties)

This bill adds several amendments to “The Tennessee Apiary Act of 1995”. These amendments:

1. Shorten the current registration period of three (3) years to one (1) year
2. Add reporting of importation of packages & queens within 10 days
3. Add reporting of increase of apiary size obtained by any manner on a yearly basis

An additional amendment provides limits on liability provided the beekeeper signs a compliance agreement and conforms to 14 different regulations. Several of these regulations are common sense practices already carried out by beekeepers. Other regulations limit the number of hives in relation to property size or place restrictions on queen replacement whereas still others require the following of inexact management practices.

House Bill 1670 (SB1961) substantially augments the state’s administrative and financial burden. In addition to the State Apiarist, additional apiary inspectors will be required to carry out the proposed changes in House Bill 1670. The added financial burden will be at the taxpayer’s expense. It places additional administrative burden on beekeepers and creates inexact beekeeping regulations. The addition of more beekeeping regulations will discourage, not encourage, people to become beekeepers.

### **House Bill 0030** by Casada (part of Williamson County)

This bill adds a short amendment to “The Tennessee Apiary Act of 1995”. It affords liability protection for any personal injury or property damage that may occur in the operation of a registered apiary in a reasonable manner. This limitation of liability does not apply to intentional civil wrongdoing constituting gross negligence.

House Bill 0030 (SB0109) encourages people to follow beekeeping by mitigating the threat of litigation and offering the possibility of lower insurance rates without the addition of inexact regulations.

We ask that you contact your local Representative and Senator expressing you support for House Bill 0030. At the same time, make them aware of your concerns about HB 1670.

A crucial House Judiciary Committee (members listed below) meeting will be scheduled soon so it is important for beekeepers who live in the Districts of House Judiciary Committee members to contact them as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

*Wib Magli, Jim Primus & David Young*

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Fellow Tennessee Beekeepers, Nashville Area Beekeepers Association Members

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