

**CHAPTER 19****(HB 175)**

AN ACT relating to bees.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 350 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

*The General Assembly finds that the reclamation of coal mine sites can benefit from pollinator habitat sites. These sites are an important conservation resource which will encourage and protect the habitat for pollinators like honeybees, bumble bees, and other bee species. The protection and location of pollinator sites situated on mine sites can increase the revegetation rates during the reclamation period which supports soil and hydrologic stability. Therefore the General Assembly hereby directs the cabinet to develop a plan in conjunction with the Division of Conservation to encourage coal licensees to locate and protect pollinator sites on reclamation sites and to use high value trees and shrubs to aid in pollen transfer.*

➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

*The honeybee is named and designated as the official state agricultural insect of Kentucky.*

➔Section 3. KRS 350.113 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) When the planting of a permit area is completed, the permittee shall file a planting report with the cabinet on a form to be prescribed and furnished by the cabinet, giving the following information:
  - (a) Identification of the operation;
  - (b) The type of planting or seeding, including mixtures and amounts;
  - (c) The date of planting or seeding;
  - (d) The area of land planted;
  - (e) Other relevant information, *including whether the operator has utilized a pollinator colony*, as the cabinet may require.
- (2) All planting reports shall be certified.
- (3) Inspection and evaluation for vegetative cover shall be made as soon as it is possible to determine if a satisfactory stand has been established. In no instance shall this vegetative cover check be made until just prior to or after the completion of the first growing season.

➔Section 4. KRS 350.435 is amended to read as follows:

The permittee or other person shall establish on the regraded areas, and all other lands affected, a diverse, effective, and permanent vegetative cover of the same seasonal variety native to the area of land to be affected and capable of self-regeneration and plant succession at least equal in extent of cover to the natural vegetation of the area; except, that introduced species, *such as the establishment of pollinator habitat sites for bees*, may be used in the revegetation process where desirable and necessary to achieve the approved postmining land use plan.

➔Section 5. During the 2010 interim, the interim joint committee with jurisdiction over coal mine reclamation is encouraged to examine the issue of pollinator habitat and to find ways to support sustainable beekeeping habitats on mine reclamation sites.

**Signed by Governor March 18, 2010.**