

CHAPTER 78**(SJR 177)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Department of Agriculture's State Apiarist to work with the Transportation Cabinet and with local beekeeping clubs throughout the state to identify state-owned rights-of-way that could be reseeded or replanted into pollinator habitat sites that are beneficial to the bee population of our state, and directing the State Apiarist to consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to identify plant species that would be the most beneficial to bees.

WHEREAS, bees, particularly honeybees, play a critical role in cross-pollinating crops, trees, and flowers in Kentucky and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, providing adequate pollinators is crucial for the survival of bees; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has a large number of beekeeping clubs that are willing to implement strategies that would benefit bees; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has numerous state-owned rights-of-way that could be converted into pollinator habitat sites; and

WHEREAS, identifying and developing pollinator habitat sites on rights-of-way would aid in increasing the bee population in our state;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The Department of Agriculture's State Apiarist is directed to work with the Transportation Cabinet and with local beekeeping clubs throughout the state to identify state-owned rights-of-way that could be reseeded or replanted into pollinator habitat sites that would benefit the bee population of our state.

➔Section 2. The State Apiarist is also directed to consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to identify plant species that would be the most beneficial to bees.

➔Section 3. Local beekeeping clubs may contribute to the Kentucky beekeeping fund created by KRS 252.185, and the State Apiarist shall use those funds to purchase beneficial plant species and signage for the cabinet to use if pollinator habitat sites are developed.

➔Section 4. The State Apiarist shall present a report to the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture regarding the development of pollinator habitat sites by November 1, 2011.

Signed by Governor April 7, 2010.