



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Amanda George

H.B. 392

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Stein, Becker, Hambley, Henne, Hill, Kick, Koehler, Retherford, Riedel, Roegner, Thompson, West

BILL SUMMARY

- Grants immunity to a registered apiary owner in personal injury or property damage cases if the owner is in compliance with specified state and local laws and industry best management practices.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Apiary owner immunity

Under the bill, a person that registers an apiary (a place where one or more colonies or nuclei of bees are kept)¹ is not liable for any personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection with keeping and maintaining bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries, and appliances as long as the person does all of the following:

- (1) Implements and is in compliance with Ohio beekeeping industry best management practices as established by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association;
- (2) Is in compliance with local zoning ordinances pertaining to apiaries; and
- (3) Operates the apiary in compliance with state law governing apiaries.²

¹ R.C. 909.01(D), not in the bill.

² R.C. 909.19(A).

The limitation of liability does not apply to intentional tortious conduct or acts or omissions constituting gross negligence.³

Under law unchanged by the bill, a person owning or possessing bees must register their apiary locations annually with the Director of Agriculture. The registration application must set forth the exact location of the person's apiaries and the number of colonies of bees in each apiary, together with other information required by the Director. The registration application must include a registration fee of \$5.00 for each separate apiary owned or possessed by the person at time of registration.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-24-17

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³ R.C. 909.19(B).

⁴ R.C. 909.02, not in the bill.

