

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. B. No. 911

Representative Miller, M.

To amend section 909.02 and to enact section 1
909.021 of the Revised Code to restrict the 2
location of commercial apiaries under specified 3
conditions. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 909.02 be amended and section 5
909.021 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 6

Sec. 909.02. (A) Any person owning or possessing bees 7
shall on or before the first day of June of each year, or 8
thereafter within thirty days after coming into ownership or 9
possession of bees, or upon moving bees into this state from 10
outside the state, file with the director of agriculture an 11
application for registration setting forth the exact location of 12
the person's apiaries and such other information as is required 13
by the director. All registrations issued in accordance with 14
this section expire on the following thirty-first day of May and 15
shall be renewed according to the standard renewal procedure of 16
sections 4745.01 to 4745.03 of the Revised Code. 17

(B) The director shall issue an initial registration to a 18
person only if the person's proposed apiary complies with at 19
least one of the requirements established in division (A) of 20

section 909.021 of the Revised Code. 21

(C) No person shall maintain an apiary unless the apiary 22
is registered under this section and identifiable by name or 23
identification number assigned to such person by the director. 24
Such identification number shall be posted in a conspicuous 25
location in the apiary. The moving, raising, and production of 26
bees, beeswax, honey, and honey products shall be deemed an 27
agricultural pursuit. 28

Sec. 909.021. (A) On and after the effective date of this 29
section, no person shall establish a new apiary that is located 30
within three miles of another existing apiary registered under 31
section 909.02 of the Revised Code, unless one or more of the 32
following apply: 33

(1) The person obtains the permission of the owner of the 34
existing apiary. 35

(2) The person does not intend to use the proposed apiary 36
for commercial purposes. 37

(3) The proposed apiary will contain less than ten hives. 38

(4) The existing apiary is not used for commercial 39
purposes. 40

(5) The proposed apiary will be located on property owned 41
by the person. 42

(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply to either 43
of the following: 44

(1) A person that maintains an apiary that is used solely 45
for personal or recreational purposes; 46

(2) A person that maintains an apiary whose bees are 47

pollinating actively flowering or blooming crops. 48

Section 2. That existing section 909.02 of the Revised 49
Code is hereby repealed. 50