

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSE  
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT  
STANDING COMMITTEE**

Room 445, State Capitol

February 17, 2016

**Members Present:** Rep. Lee B. Perry, Chair  
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers, Vice Chair  
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown  
Rep. Scott H. Chew  
Rep. Susan Duckworth  
Rep. Stephen G. Handy  
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes  
Rep. Mike K. McKell  
Rep. Michael E. Noel  
Rep. Derrin Owens  
Rep. Kraig Powell  
Rep. Scott D. Sandall  
Rep. Mike Schultz

**Staff Present:** J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst  
An Bradshaw, Committee Secretary

**NOTE:** A list of visitors and handouts are filed with committee minutes

Chair Perry called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

**H.B. 115      Beekeeping Modifications (*Rep. M. Roberts*)**

Rep. Roberts explained the bill to the committee with the assistance of Stan Moulton, beekeeper, and provided an overhead presentation. Joey Caputo, entomologist, Department of Agriculture and Food, answered questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Rep. Schultz moved to amend the bill as follows:

1, Lines 11 through 17

- 11      This bill:
- 12      ▶ amends bee raising registration requirements; =
- 13      ▶ addresses mosquito abatement district liability;
- 14      ▶ amends county bee inspector duties;
- 15      ▶ modifies inspection provisions;
- 16      ▶ provides for bee raising restrictions under certain circumstances;
- 16      ▶ prohibits a political subdivision from adopting an ordinance, rule, regulation, or

17 resolution prohibiting a property owner from establishing or maintaining ~~{an~~  
~~apiary}~~ certain apiaries ;

1. Page 3, Lines 63 through 64:

63 registration on or before December 31 of each year. =  
(2) A mosquito abatement district, subject to the provisions of Chapter 2a, Part  
7, Mosquito Abatement District Act, is not liable for damages to a beekeeper for  
bees damaged as a result of an aerosol spray applied to reduce a mosquito  
population.  
64 ~~{(2)}~~ (3) (a) A person may not operate a wax-salvage plant without a  
license issued by the

2. Page 6, Lines 178 through 181:

178 4-11-18. Prohibition of beekeeping by a political subdivision.  
179 ~~{A}~~ (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a political subdivision may  
not adopt an ordinance, rule, regulation, or resolution  
180 prohibiting a property owner from establishing or maintaining an apiary on the property  
181 owner's property. =  
(2) A political subdivision may adopt an ordinance, rule, regulation, or  
resolution prohibiting a person from locating an apiary of migratory bees within the  
boundaries of the political subdivision.

The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Briscoe and Rep. Powell absent for the vote.

Spoke against the bill:

James Peirce, citizen  
Sammie Dickson, Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement  
Alex Grover, Utah Sustainable Gardening  
Casey Lofthouse, citizen  
Kurt Stembridge, citizen

**MOTION:** Rep. McKell moved to pass the bill out favorably as amended.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Noel moved to hold the bill. The motion passed with Rep. Chew, Rep. Duckworth, Rep. McKell, and Rep. Schultz voting in opposition and Rep. Briscoe and Rep. Powell absent for the vote.

**H.B. 315      Bee Keeping Amendments (*Rep. K. McIff*)**

Rep. McIff explained the bill to the committee with the assistance of Jim Jones, Mountain Springs Honey Company, and Darren Cox, President, American Honey Producers Association. "Subjects for Consideration" handout was provided to the committee. LuAnn Adams, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food, and Joey Caputo, entomologist, Department of Agriculture and Food, answered questions from the committee.

Spoke for the bill:      Brian Stephenson, Stephenson Honey  
                                 Kurt Stembridge, HK Stembridge, LLC

Spoke against the bill:  
                                 Rob Bliss, Bliss Honey  
                                 Doug Rowley, fruit growers of Utah County  
                                 James Peirce, citizen  
                                 Alex Grover, Utah Sustainable Gardening  
                                 Casey Lofthouse, citizen  
                                 Jerry Anderson, J Beebiz  
                                 Sinead Hogan McSweeney, citizen

**MOTION:**      Rep. Noel moved to hold the bill. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Briscoe and Rep. Powell absent for the vote.

**MOTION:**      Rep. Duckworth moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Briscoe and Rep. Powell absent for the vote.

Chair Perry adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.