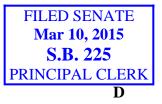
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2015



SENATE DRS45092-TQ-4 (03/02)

Short Title:	The Birds and the Bees Act.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Meredith, B. Jackson, and Barringer (Primary Sponsors).	
Referred to:		

1		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO C	LARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT
3	ORDINANC	ES RELATED TO BEE HIVES AND TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT
4	OF AGRICU	JLTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO STUDY STRATEGIES FOR
5	PROTECTIN	IG AND SUPPORTING POLLINATORS.
6	The General Ass	embly of North Carolina enacts:
7	SEC	FION 1. Article 55 of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes is amended by
8	adding a new sec	tion to read:
9	" <u>§ 106-645. Lin</u>	nitations on local government regulation of bee hives.
10		ity, or other political subdivision of the State shall adopt or continue in effect
11	any ordinance of	resolution that prohibits any person or entity from owning or possessing five
12	or fewer bee hive	<u>2S.</u> "
13	SEC	FION 2. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall study
14	all of the followi	ng issues:
15	(1)	How the State can increase habitat for pollinators, including birds and
16		insects, on farmland across the State. In studying this issue, the Department
17		of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall address the following:
18		a. The willingness of farms to plant pollinator-friendly vegetation in
19		rural areas.
20		b. The ability of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
21		to provide support for a farm planting program from existing funds.
22		c. The ability of research stations or other Department of Agriculture
23		and Consumer Services properties to plant pollinator-friendly
24		vegetation.
25	(2)	How the State can increase habitat for pollinators, including birds and
26		insects, on Department of Transportation rights-of-way and on other State
27		properties across the State. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer
28		Services shall solicit input from the Department of Transportation in
29		studying this issue.
30	(3)	How the State can increase habitat for pollinators, including birds and
31		insects, on aboveground public utility easements or aboveground
32		infrastructure pathways across the State. The Department of Agriculture and
33		Consumer Services shall solicit input from the public utilities, electric
34		membership corporations, and municipalities that operate aboveground
35		utilities in studying this issue.



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1	(4) Whether it would be appropriate to require planting of pollinator-friendly
2	vegetation on easements on State-owned lands as a condition of granting the
3	easement. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall
4	solicit input from the Department of Administration in studying this issue.
5	(5) Other strategies for increasing protection of and supporting existing
6	populations of pollinators within the State.
7	SECTION 3. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall submit
8	the results of the study to the Environmental Review Commission by March 1, 2016. The study
9	report shall contain the information required in this section and any findings, legislative
10	proposals, cost/benefit analyses, or additional recommendations for legislative action to
11	proactively address pollinator-related issues that may threaten the economy, ecology, and
12	agricultural heritage of the State.
13	SECTION 4. This act is effective when it becomes law.