
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5696

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Litzow and Mullet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to apiarists; and adding a new section to chapter
2 15.60 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 15.60 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) An apiarist or broker who is registered under RCW 15.60.021,
7 and who operates his or her apiary or apiaries in a reasonable manner
8 and in conformance with the department's apiary best management
9 practices rules, is immune from civil liability for any personal injury
10 or property damage that occurs in connection with the keeping and
11 maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries,
12 and appliances. The limitation on civil liability under this section
13 does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or
14 willful or wanton misconduct.

15 (2) The director, after consulting with the apiary advisory
16 committee, shall propose for adoption and maintain rules that establish
17 best management practices for apiarists and brokers in the operation of
18 apiaries. The rules shall provide for specific setbacks that must be

1 made upon the written demand of any person having an allergy to bee
2 stings who owns property within one-quarter mile of the location of the
3 hive or hives.

4 (3) The limitation on civil liability contained in subsection (1)
5 of this section shall not take effect until rules are adopted under
6 subsection (2) of this section.

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