

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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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 CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT  
3 ORDINANCES RELATED TO BEE HIVES AND TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT  
4 OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO STUDY STRATEGIES FOR  
5 PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING POLLINATORS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Article 55 of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes is amended by  
8 adding a new section to read:

9 **"§ 106-645. Limitations on local government regulation of bee hives.**

10 No county, city, or other political subdivision of the State shall adopt or continue in effect  
11 any ordinance or resolution that prohibits any person or entity from owning or possessing five  
12 or fewer bee hives."

13 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall study  
14 all of the following 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.