

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 2908  
**Version:** First engrossment

**DATE:** March 21, 2014

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**Subject:** Pollinators

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### Overview

This bill concerns bees and other pollinators killed by pesticide. If the pesticide applicator cannot be identified or the pesticide applicator is identified and found to have followed application instructions and restrictions on the product's label, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) could compensate the bee owner from state Pesticide Regulatory Account. The Pesticide Regulatory Account contains the fees and penalties paid to MDA by pesticide manufacturers, distributors, and applicators.

The bill also authorizes MDA to form a pollinator emergency response team and declares the Minnesota Zoo the official state pollinator bank.

### Section

- 1 **Bee.** Defines the term for purposes of chapter 18B "Pesticide Control" and the compensation program created in this bill.
- 2 **Bee owner.** Defines the term for purposes of chapter 18B "Pesticide Control" and the compensation program created in this bill.
- 3 **Colony.** Defines the term for purposes of chapter 18B "Pesticide Control" and the compensation program created in this bill.
- 4 **Hive.** Defines the term for purposes of chapter 18B "Pesticide Control" and the compensation program created in this bill.
- 5 **Pollinator.** Defines the term for purposes of chapter 18B "Pesticide Control" and the

## Section

compensation program created in this bill.

- 6 **Pollinators.** Authorizes MDA to take enforcement action for violations of state pesticide control law that result in harm to pollinators. Penalties collected for these crimes would be deposited in the Pesticide Regulatory Account.
- 7 **Pesticide impact on the environment.** Authorizes MDA to assemble a pollinator emergency response team to consult on MDA's pollinator death and illness investigations. MDA could contract with team members under a chapter 16C emergency procurement provision.
- 8 **Compensation for bees killed by pesticide; appropriation.** Requires MDA to compensate a bee owner whose bees were killed by acute pesticide poisoning when 1) the pesticide applicator cannot be determined; 2) the pesticide applicator applied the product in an illegal manner; or 3) the pesticide applicator applied the product in a legal manner. For categories 1 and 3, MDA would award the bee owner compensation from the Pesticide Regulatory Account in the Agricultural Fund. For category 2, either MDA would not compensate the person or MDA would collect a penalty from the pesticide applicator that is sufficient to compensate the bee owner for the fair market value of the dead bees and award the money to the bee owner. A bee owner must submit a claim of at least \$100 and may receive no more than \$20,000 per fiscal year for all eligible claims. Authorizes a bee owner to contest a claim denial by MDA. States that in order for a bee owner to be eligible for any compensation, the bee owner must have had insurance coverage for no more than 50% of the value of their colony. Appropriates up to \$150,000 per fiscal year from the Pesticide Regulatory Account for compensation payments.
- 9 **Definitions.** Defines terms for purposes of chapter 19 "Apiaries."
- 10 **Zoological garden.** Designates the Minnesota Zoo as the state's official pollinator bank, as defined.
- 11 **Bee valuation protocol required.** Requires MDA to report to the legislature by January 15, 2015, a protocol for determining the fair market value of bees for purposes of the new compensation program.
- 12 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund to compensate the new pesticide emergency response team.