

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
2016 Bill/Resolution



Committee: Environment

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Bill No.: H09

Delegation: ALA NM Girls State 2016

Status: Passed by committee to the House, but was not discussed in the Senate

Title of Bill: Bee Protection Act

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5 **Section I. Body:** Millions of bees are dying, with alarming consequences for our
6 environment and our food supply. We rely on bees for pollination of everything from
7 plants that supplies our oxygen to seeds and fruit. Scientists point the severe cause
8 behind the problem to insecticide known as neonicotinoids (or neonics). Big agrichemical
9 companies that use neonics and are fighting to prevent bans. Ways to help prevent the
10 death rate of bees from increasing is to urge big agrichemical companies to stop using
11 this insecticide. If they refuse to, then they will be fined up to \$55,000.00 for the first
12 violation and \$110,000.00 for the subsequent violations. Also urge the EPA to refuse to
13 approve any insecticides unless scientists confirm they present no threat to bees. Ways
14 individual citizens can help to decrease the death rate is to buy organic foods, avoid
15 pesticides in gardens, plant bee friendly organic plants, and to spread the word.

16 Relating to the decrease in population of bees nationally, urge state agencies to protect
17 the bee populations, request the governor to declare "Bee Awareness Day" to promote
18 education about the importance of the roles that bees play in New Mexico's economy.
19 Whereas native and commercial bee populations are drastically declining due to habitat
20 loss, the use of pesticides, and disease. Whereas bees pollinate one-third of the food that
we eat, including crops vital to New Mexico's economy and quality of life. Whereas Albert
Einstein said that if bees disappear, humans would have only four years of life left on
earth.

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18 that all state agencies be requested to use bee-friendly plants in all projects related to
19 landscaping and restrict the use of damaging insecticides; and that the governor be
20 requested to issue a proclamation declaring a "Bee Awareness Day" to promote
education about the importance of bees to the state.

Section II. Definitions:

A."pesticides" being a substance used for destroying insects or other
organisms harmful to cultivated plants or to animals

B. "disappear" meaning to cease to exist

- C. "pollinate" being an action of conveying pollen to or depositing pollen on (a stigma, ovule, flower, or plant) and so allowing fertilization
- D. EPA: The United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- E. Neonicotinoids – systemic agricultural insecticides resembling nicotine.
- F. Agrichemical – chemical used in agriculture, such as pesticides or fertilizers.

Section III. Penalty: (Note: Penalty was not decided)

Section IV. Repeal: All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section V. Effective Date: This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.