GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 620

Short Title: Apiculture Funds.

Sponsors: Senators Speed; Albertson, Warren, Kerr, Plexico, and Soles.

Referred to: Agriculture, Marine Resources, and Wildlife.

March 29, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT TO PROVIDE INCREASED APICULTURAL SUPPORT AT NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY AND INCREASED APICULTURAL INSPECTION SERVICES AT THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Whereas, pollination by honeybees is necessary for many of the commercial fruit and vegetable crops such as apples, blueberries, cucumbers, watermelons, and other vine crops in North Carolina; and

Whereas, North Carolina beekeepers contribute over \$6,000,000 annually to the State's economy through the production of honey and beeswax and add an additional \$30,000,000 by increasing the value of pollinated crops such as apples, blueberries, cucumbers, watermelons, and other vine crops; and

Whereas, the establishment of two new bee pests (tracheal mites and Varroa mites) has killed up to 30% of the bee colonies on an annual basis in recent years and these losses are expected to continue; and

Whereas, the beekeeping industry in North Carolina is the major barrier to the expected arrival of Africanized "killer" bees in the State; and

Whereas, continuing programs of research at North Carolina State University and expanded inspection and regulation work by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture are needed to support the beekeeping industry; and

Whereas, there is needed an appropriation for these purposes; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of forty-five thousand two hundred sixty-six dollars (\$45,266) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of thirty-nine thousand two hundred sixty-six dollars (\$39,266) for the 1994-95 fiscal year for the purpose of providing funding for apicultural research in the Department of Entomology at North Carolina State University to deal with the problems of tracheal mites, Varroa mites, and the arrival of Africanized bees that affect the State's beekeeping industry.

Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture the sum of one hundred twelve thousand one hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$112,158) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred seven thousand four hundred forty-eight dollars (\$107,448) for the 1994-95 fiscal year for the purpose of providing increased inspection and regulatory services by the Division of Plant Industry to deal with the problems of tracheal mites, Varroa mites, and the arrival of Africanized bees that affect the State's beekeeping industry.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.