

**As Passed by the House**

**127th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2007-2008**

**Am. H. B. No. 501**

**Representatives Okey, Stebelton**

**Cosponsors: Representatives DeGeeter, Sayre, Brown, Brady, Luckie, Setzer, Williams, B., Yuko, Yates, Hite, Dodd, Budish, Skindell, Evans, McGregor, J., Dyer, Szollosi, Foley, Bolon, Schlichter, Gibbs, Aslanides, Zehringer, Reinhard, Goodwin, Newcomb, Domenick, Heard, Adams, Bacon, Batchelder, Beatty, Blessing, Boyd, Celeste, Chandler, Ciafardini, Combs, Daniels, DeBose, Fende, Flowers, Garrison, Gerberry, Hagan, J., Hagan, R., Harwood, Heydinger, Hottinger, Huffman, Hughes, Koziura, Letson, Lundy, Mallory, Nero, Oelslager, Otterman, J., Patton, Peterson, Schneider, Slesnick, Stewart, D., Stewart, J., Strahorn, Uecker, Ujvagi, Wachtmann**

—

**A B I L L**

To create the Ohio Beekeepers Task Force.

1

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** (A) There is hereby created in the Department of Agriculture the Ohio Beekeepers Task Force consisting of the following members:

2  
3  
4

(1) Two members of the House of Representatives Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee appointed by the Governor, each from a different political party;

5  
6  
7

(2) Two members of the Senate Agriculture Committee appointed by the Governor, each from a different political party;

8  
9

(3) The Chief of the Division of Plant Industry in the Department of Agriculture or the Chief's designee;

10  
11

(4) The Director of Natural Resources or the Director's designee;	12 13
(5) Two representatives of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association appointed by the Association;	14 15
(6) The Director of The Ohio State University Extension or the Director's designee;	16 17
(7) An apiculture specialist of The Ohio State University Extension appointed by the Director of The Ohio State University Extension;	18 19 20
(8) The Chair of The Ohio State University Department of Entomology or the Chair's designee;	21 22
(9) A representative of the Ohio Produce Growers and Marketing Association appointed by the Association;	23 24
(10) A representative of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Bee and Honey Committee appointed by the Federation;	25 26
(11) A representative of the Ohio Farmers Union appointed by the Union;	27 28
(12) A representative of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio appointed by the Association.	29 30
(B) The members shall be appointed not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. The Task Force shall hold its first meeting not later than ninety days after the effective date of this section.	31 32 33 34
(C) The Governor shall select a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members of the Task Force. The chairperson may appoint a secretary.	35 36 37
(D) The members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for their services.	38 39
(E) Not later than ten months after the effective date of	40

this section, the Ohio Beekeepers Task Force shall submit a report 41  
to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the 42  
House of Representatives, and the Ohio State Beekeepers 43  
Association. The report shall do all of the following: 44

(1) Provide an overview of the characteristics of the 45  
honeybee crisis in Ohio; 46

(2) Examine and provide an overview of and conclusions 47  
regarding whether pollinator shortages are affecting crop 48  
pollination in Ohio; 49

(3) Review and provide an overview of the Ohio Honeybee 50  
Emergency Action Plan; 51

(4) Review and provide a summary of the federal initiatives 52  
regarding Ohio's bee population and of all of the Department of 53  
Agriculture's and the Ohio State Beekeepers Association's programs 54  
concerning Ohio's bee population; 55

(5) Provide an overview of the five-year goals of the 56  
Department of Agriculture concerning honeybees, including 57  
recommendations for the restoration of Ohio's bee population; 58

(6) Examine and describe the funding that is available for 59  
honeybee programs and issues affecting honeybees; 60

(7) Any other issues that the Task Force considers 61  
appropriate. 62

(F) Not later than ninety days following the submission of 63  
the report, the Task Force shall meet and respond to any question 64  
from a person who received the report. The Task Force shall cease 65  
to exist upon submitting its response to all questions from 66  
persons who received the report. 67