

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-4411.1, relating to limited*
3 *liability for beekeepers.*

4 [H 535]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 3.2-4411.1 as follows:**8 ***§ 3.2-4411.1. Apiaries; limitation on liability.***9 *A. Any person owning or operating an apiary that is not located on his own property shall post the*
10 *name and address of the owner or operator in a conspicuous place in the apiary.*11 *B. A person who operates an apiary in a reasonable manner, in compliance with local zoning*
12 *restrictions, and in conformance with the written best management practices as provided by regulation*
13 *of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall not be liable for any personal injury or*
14 *property damage that occurs in connection with his keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment,*
15 *queen breeding equipment, apiaries, or appliances. The limitation of liability established by this section*
16 *does not apply to intentional tortious conduct or acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or*
17 *negligence.*18 *C. The limitation of liability in this section shall not take effect until regulations are adopted by the*
19 *Board. The Board may adopt initial regulations under this section to implement the provisions of this*
20 *section to be effective no later than November 1, 2016. Such initial regulations shall be exempt from the*
21 *requirements of Article 2 (§ 2.2-4006 et seq.) of the Administrative Process Act; however, the Board*
22 *shall publish proposed regulations in the Virginia Register of Regulations and allow at least 30 days for*
23 *public comment, to include an online public comment forum on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall, after*
24 *publication. Any amendments to such initial regulations or any subsequent regulations adopted pursuant*
25 *to this section shall comply with the requirements of Article 2 of the Administrative Process Act. Any*
26 *regulations adopted shall include best management practices for the operation of apiaries.*

ENROLLED

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