

## Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB535

**House of Origin**     Introduced       Substitute       Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute       Enrolled

**2. Patron:**      Bell, Richard P.

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses.

**4. Title:**          Limited liability for beekeepers.

**5. Summary:** This bill provides that a beekeeper shall not be liable for any personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection with his keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries, and appliances if he remains in conformance with local zoning restrictions and best management practices established in regulations adopted by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The immunity does not extend to intentional tortious conduct or acts of omission that constitute gross negligence. The Board is directed to adopt initial regulations to be effective no later than November 1, 2016. In addition, the bill requires that any person owning or operating an apiary that is not located on his own property shall post the name and address of the owner or operator in a conspicuous place in the apiary.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services can absorb the costs associated with the development of regulations within current resources.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.