

2020 SESSION

INTRODUCED

20102846D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 8, 2020

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-4416 of the Code of Virginia, relating to beehive distribution program.*

Patron—Wilt

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 3.2-4416 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 3.2-4416. Beehive distribution program.

Any individual registered with the Department as a beekeeper may apply to the Department for no more than three basic beehive units per year *per household*. The Department shall establish guidelines setting forth the components of a basic beehive unit and the general requirements for qualifying for such unit. ~~Applications~~ *Such guidelines shall provide that the application period for beehive units shall be processed in the order in which completed eligible applications are received last at least two weeks and that beehive units shall be granted based on application merit as determined by the Department.* In the event that funds are not available in the Beehive Grant Fund established pursuant to § 3.2-4415 (the Fund), the Department may cease accepting applications and notify applicants that the funds available for that fiscal year have been exhausted. The Department shall not be required to carry forward pending applications to the next fiscal year in which funds are available in the Fund.

The Department may use funds from the Fund to pay for the costs of purchasing, building, or distributing the beehive units and for the costs of administering the beehive distribution program. The Department may work cooperatively with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station Division, established pursuant to Article 2 (§ 23.1-2608 et seq.) of Chapter 26 of Title 23.1, to carry out the provisions of this section.

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