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**UTAH BEE INSPECTION ACT AMENDMENTS**  
2024 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Rex P. Shipp**  
Senate Sponsor: Ronald M. Winterton

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies the Utah Bee Inspection Act.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- restricts the ability of a governmental entity to regulate beekeeping on private property;
- provides exceptions for governmental entities to restrict beekeeping in a governmental entity's jurisdiction;
- requires the Department of Agriculture and Food to convene a working group to develop recommendations for standards that governmental entities must follow when restricting beekeeping;
- authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Food to adopt rules based on the working group's recommendations; and
- provides an automatic repeal date for the working group once the Department of Agriculture and Food has implemented the working group's recommendations into rule.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**63I-2-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 33, 273

ENACTS:

**4-11-116**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

28 4-11-117, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section 4-11-116 is enacted to read:

32 **4-11-116 . Regulation of beekeeping reserved to state -- Exceptions --**

33 **Rulemaking authorized.**

34 (1) As used in this section, "governmental entity" means the same as that term is defined in  
35 Section 11-13a-102.

36 (2) Except as authorized by Subsection (3), a governmental entity may not adopt or enforce  
37 any restriction related to the raising of bees on private property that is more restrictive  
38 than the restrictions in this chapter.

39 (3) A governmental entity may adopt and enforce a restriction related to the number and  
40 location of hives on property within the governmental entity's jurisdiction if the  
41 restriction complies with the department's rules described in Subsection (4).

42 (4) The department may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
43 Administrative Rulemaking Act, for governmental entities to follow when adopting  
44 beekeeping restrictions in the governmental entity's jurisdiction related to:

45 (a) the number of hives permitted on a property;

46 (b) the location of hives on a property; and

47 (c) any locations unsuitable for beekeeping.

48 (5) This section does not restrict or expand private property rights.

49 Section 2. Section 4-11-117 is enacted to read:

50 **4-11-117 . Beekeeping working group -- Development of standards.**

51 (1) As used in this section:

52 (a) "Municipality" means the same as that term is defined in Section 10-1-104.

53 (b) "Urban county" means a county of the first or second class.

54 (c) "Urban municipality" means a municipality located within the boundaries of:

55 (i) an urban county; or

56 (ii) a county of the third class, if the municipality has a population of 10,000 or more.

57 (2) On or before November 30, 2024, the department shall convene a working group to  
58 develop recommendations for standards related to:

59 (a) the number and characteristics of hives appropriate for properties in urban and  
60 nonurban counties or municipalities, considering lot size and neighborhood  
61 population density;

- 62 (b) the location and barrier guidance for hives appropriate for properties in urban and
- 63 nonurban counties or municipalities, to minimize the impact on a neighboring
- 64 property;
- 65 (c) any locations in urban and nonurban counties or municipalities unsuitable for
- 66 beekeeping;
- 67 (d) swarm prevention;
- 68 (e) water sources related to beekeeping; and
- 69 (f) open feeding related to beekeeping.
- 70 (3) (a) The working group described in Subsection (2) shall include:
- 71 (i) department staff as determined by the commissioner;
- 72 (ii) a majority of the county bee inspectors, as described in Section 4-11-105, in the
- 73 state;
- 74 (iii) one member representing county government, as determined by the
- 75 commissioner; and
- 76 (iv) one member representing municipal government, as determined by the
- 77 commissioner.
- 78 (b) A member of the working group may not receive compensation for membership on
- 79 or participation in the working group.
- 80 (4) On or before December 31, 2024, the working group described in Subsection (2) shall
- 81 report the working group's recommendations to the commissioner.
- 82 (5) On or before April 30, 2025, the department shall make rules in accordance with Title
- 83 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to implement the
- 84 recommendations from the working group's report described in Subsection (4).

85 Section 3. Section **63I-2-204** is amended to read:

86 **63I-2-204 . Repeal dates: Title 4.**

- 87 (1) Title 4, Chapter 2, Part 6, Local Food Advisory Council, is repealed November 30, 2027.
- 88 (2) Section 4-11-117 is repealed May 1, 2025.
- 89 [~~2~~] (3) Section 4-41a-102.1 is repealed January 1, 2024.
- 90 [~~3~~] (4) Title 4, Chapter 42, Utah Intracurricular Student Organization Support for
- 91 Agricultural Education and Leadership, is repealed on July 1, 2024.
- 92 [~~4~~] (5) Section 4-46-104, Transition, is repealed July 1, 2024.

93 Section 4. **Effective date.**

94 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.