

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Premiere Bill	Red Bill # P23						
	Referred to Committee: Senate 4						
Authors: Sam Sutton	Action on the Bill <table> <tr> <td>House</td> <td>Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
House		Senate					
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School: Owensboro Catholic HS							
City: Owensboro							

1 An act to increase the bee population in Kentucky and prevent Colony Collapse Disorder.

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3 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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5 Section 1: One-third of all honey bee colonies in the country have vanished. Healthy bees started abandoning
6 their hives and not returning in 2006. This is called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The current research
7 suggests some very alarming information. It is widely though that one out of every three bites of food we
8 put in our mouths are the direct result of pollinating insects and honey bees account for 80% of that
9 pollination. Experts agree that the disorder comes from many sources including diseases, pesticides, and lack
10 of flowering plants. Bees are needed to pollinate plants so that we can have food.

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12 Section 2: The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) will help develop a campaign via internet,
13 commercials, and community forums to educate Kentucky citizens on how they can reverse this problem.
14 Solutions range from wildflower seeding, planting flowers and plants, and using organic pesticides.

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16 Section 3: The KDA in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will develop a
17 task force made up of apiarists, honey farmers, insectologists, and leading agriculturists to studey what
18 other nations have successfully accomplished to reverse CCD. Honey bees are said to be worth 19 billion
19 dollars annually to agriculture for their pollination values. This task force will then decide which of those
20 programs would be beneficial to the honey bee crisis in Kentucky. The KDA will implement these programs.
21 Both the USDA and the KDA have funds already in place.

22
23 Section 4: Amending the Farmland Assessment Act will make it easier for beekeepers/landowners to obtain a
24 tax break. Under the current system, a landowner with property suitable for a beekeeper will rent that
25 property to a farmer for a hay or corn crop rather than a beekeeper. This is because hay and corn will
26 provide a Farmland Assessment tax break, but a honey crop will not. Such an amendment would allow
27 property owners who rent to beekeepers to obtain the same credit they receive now when they rent to a
28 vegetable crop owner.