

By: Meza

H.B. No. 4212

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a professional bee removal training and licensure program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 71, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Sec. 71.155 to read as follows:

Sec. 71.155. Training OF BEE REMOVAL PROFESSIONALS: (a) The department by rule shall establish the requirements for a bee removal professional training program. Additionally, the individual (to acquire said license, and or certificate would carry insurance in the amount of \$600,000.00 aggregate and \$300,000.00 per incident (+) workman's comp at his own expense.

(b) The training program must include:

(1) at least 80 hours of classroom instruction and 80 hours of practical instruction in the areas of:

(2) honey bees;

(3) beekeeping; and

(4) non lethal removal of bees from a structure; and

(5) a comprehensive final examination.

(c) The department by rule shall establish the minimum passing score for the final examination.

(d) The department shall approve one or more organizations to provide the bee removal professional training program.

SECTION 2. Chapter 71, Agriculture Code, is amended by

1 adding Sec. 71.156 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 71.156. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OR LICENSE. The  
3 department shall issue a bee removal professional certificate to a  
4 person who:

5 (e) applies to the department;

6 (f) successfully completes the bee removal professional  
7 training program under Section 71.155; and

8 (g) pays the required fee.

9 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 1951, Occupations Code, is  
10 amended by adding Section 1951.604 to read as follows:

11 (h) Sec. 1951.604. BEE REMOVAL PROFESSIONALS. (a) Except  
12 as provided by Sections 1951.212 and 1951.457(c), this chapter does  
13 not apply to a person who:

14 (i) holds a bee removal professional certificate issued  
15 under Chapter 71.155, Agriculture Code;

16 (j) does not use pesticides; and

17 (k) collects and removes honeybees.

18 (l) (b) A person described by Subsection (a) is not  
19 considered to be engaged in the business of structural pest  
20 control.

21 (m) must include:

22 (1) at least 80 hours of classroom instruction and 80  
23 hours of practical instruction in the areas of:

24 (A) honey bees;

25 (B) beekeeping; and non lethal removal of bees  
26 from a structure; and

27 (2) a comprehensive final examination.

1           (n) The department by rule shall establish the minimum  
2 passing score for the final examination.

3           (o) The department shall approve one or more organizations  
4 to provide the bee removal professional training program.

5           SECTION 4. Not later than March 1, 2020, the Department of  
6 Agriculture shall adopt rules under Section 71.155, Agriculture  
7 Code, as added by this Act, and approve one or more organizations to  
8 provide the bee removal professional training program under that  
9 section.

10          SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect January 1, 2020.