STATE OF NEW YORK

8704

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

October 23, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to the preservation of honey bee colonies

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new article 15-B to read as follows:

ARTICLE 15-B

PRESERVATION OF HONEY BEE COLONIES

Section 175-v. Relocating honey bee colonies.

§ 175-v. Relocating honey bee colonies. 1. To preserve honey bee colonies in the state, any person including certified and licensed responsible pesticide applicators and commercial pesticide applicators and operators operating in the state shall contact the division of plant industry of the department by phone at least twenty-four hours in advance of extermination of honey bees to obtain assistance in trying to relocate nuisance honey bee colonies or hanging swarms of honey bees, in lieu of destroying such honey bees. Honey bees shall not be destroyed without prior approval from such division.

2. In the event the division of plant industry is not reachable, any person including certified and licensed responsible pesticide applicators and commercial pesticide applicators and operators shall attempt to contact no fewer than three beekeepers identified by the local beekeeping association found on the department's website as swarm collectors servicing the affected county, in order to obtain assistance in relocating nuisance honey bee colonies or hanging swarms before nuisance honey bee colonies or hanging swarms of honey bees may be destroyed.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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