

Senator Richard Marcellais
Senate District 9
Testimony for SB 2343

Chairman Luck, members of the Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais North Dakota State Senator for District 9.

SB 2343 relating to the placement or location of a beehive.

North Dakota is the Number 1 honey producing state in the nation. In 2023, North Dakota bees produced 38.3 million pounds of honey valued at over \$67.8 million.

The North Dakota Agriculture Department licenses beekeepers and registers hive locations annually. Hives are inspected when requested by the beekeeper.,

Every person who manages or owns honey bees in North Dakota is required by state law to obtain a license, register the location of their hives, have signs with contact information posted. This applies to beekeepers of all sizes from 1 colony and up. All licenses expire on December 1. If bees leave the state for a portion of the year, the license must be renewed before hives are brought back into the state, if hives are here year-round, the license should be renewed prior to January 1.

The reason I introduce SB 2343 is at the request of my constituents, for motor vehicle operators safety and to increase bee owner revenue..

I am in favor of SB 2343, will try answer any questions.