

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

**For proper regulation of honeybees and beekeeping and safe production of honey**

**WHEREAS** it is expedient to provide for the regulation of honeybees and beekeeping ; to protect the health of honey bees from pests and diseases and to ensure the compliance upon standard requirements of safe production of honey in the territorial limits of Islamabad Capital Territory and for matters ancillary thereto,

**It is hereby enacted as follows:-**

**1- Short title, extent and commencement.** (1) This Act shall be called <sup>the</sup> Islamabad ~~keeping~~ and Honey Regulation and Production Act 2024.

(2) It extends to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2-Definitions.** In this Act unless anything is repugnant to the subject or content,

- a) "**apiary**" means a place where bees or beehive or beekeeping equipment is kept;
- b) "**bee**" means the insect *Apis mellifera*;
- c) "**beehive equipment**" means hives, supers, hive covers, hive floors, queen excluders, frames, combs, and includes the honey, brood and pollen in the combs;
- d) "**beekeeper**" means a person who owns or controls bees or beehive or beekeeping equipment;
- e) "**beekeeping equipment**" means a tool, machine or other device for handling bees, beehive equipment or a bee product;
- f) "**cappings**" means the covering and adhering honey over comb cells, pollen or brood, that is removed before the honey extracting process;
- g) "**colony**" means queen, brood and accompanying adult bees;

- h) **"comb"** means a structure of cells composed of beeswax;
- i) **"disease"** includes American foulbrood, European foulbrood, chalkbrood, sacbrood, bee moths, the Mediterranean flour moth, nosema, acarine and any other disease or pest included by regulation;
- j) **"hive"** means beehive equipment inhabited by live bees;
- k) **"Inspector"** means an inspector appointed under the Food Department of ICT or directly under the Ministry of Food Security and Agricultural Research.
- l) **"Requirements for safe production of honey"** means the regulations regarding food safety, grading, packaging, labelling, transporting, advertising and sale of honey issued by the Ministry in consultation with National Agricultural Research Council.

**3- Issuance of a Bee master Certificate.** \_The minister may issue a bee master certificate to a beekeeper or other person found to be qualified by an examiner appointed by the minister.

**4- Registration of apiaries.** \_A person must not keep bees except in an apiary registered under this Act or for which an application for registration has been made in the preceding 15 days.

**5- Registration of beekeepers and land for apiary.**\_(1) A person must not own or possess bees or beehive equipment unless the person is registered under this Act or has applied for registration within the preceding 15 days.

(2) A person must not allow bees to be kept on land owned or occupied by the person unless the land is registered under this Act as the location of an apiary.

(3) An inspector who has reasonable cause to believe that a person is contravening this section may seize and destroy or otherwise dispose of bees or beehive equipment in the possession of or owned by the person.

**6- Certificate of registration.**\_(1) Subject to this Act and the regulations, and on payment of the prescribed fee by an applicant, the minister or any person appointed by him may register the applicant and issue a certificate of registration.

(2) A certificate of registration must not be issued for an apiary in a new location that is so close to a registered apiary or an established honey extracting plant that it may interfere with normal beekeeping operations at the apiary or plant, or that there may be danger of the spread of disease.

**7- Cancellation.** The minister may cancel a certificate of registration

(a) if, in the minister's opinion, the holder has ceased to be a beekeeper or has failed to comply with this Act, the regulations or an order made under this Act,

(b) for an apiary where bees are not kept and have not been kept for a period of 18 months beginning on any January first, or

(c) with the holder's consent.

**8- Notice of cancellation.** (1) If registration or a certificate of registration is cancelled, the minister must promptly give notice of the cancellation to the beekeeper by registered mail addressed to the beekeeper's last known recorded address.

(2) The notice must also advise the beekeeper of the right to appeal.

**9- Appeal.** (1) Land owners or beekeepers may appeal the cancellation of their registration or certificate of registration within 30 days of receiving the notice by delivering to the head, apiculture branch, a written appeal and a certified cheque in the amount set by regulation, by way of deposit.

(2) An appeal board, consisting of the head, National Agricultural Research Council, and 2 persons appointed by the minister, one of whom must be an elected ....., must meet within 30 days.

(3) If the appeal is allowed the deposit must be returned to the person appealing, but if the appeal is dismissed the deposit is forfeited to the government.

**10- Owner's identity.** The owner of an apiary must maintain a sign at the apiary showing the name of the owner.

**11- Monitoring and checking of Bees and equipment.** A person is not allowed to use bees, hives or beehive equipment unless the person designated by the minister

- (a) is satisfied that the bees, hives or equipment are free of disease, and
- (b) has approved of the location where it is intended that the bees, hives or equipment be kept.

**12- Duty of beekeeper who suspects disease in apiary.** A person who suspects disease in an apiary must immediately report the suspicion, along with the person's reasons, to an inspector.

**13- Storage of equipment.**-A person must not

- (a) leave beehive or beekeeping equipment, honey or cappings, or
- (b) permit beehive or beekeeping equipment, honey or cappings to be left where bees have access to them, other than in a hive.

**14- Inspection for disease.** An inspector who receives notice or becomes aware of the existence of disease in an apiary or beehive equipment must promptly examine the apiary, beehive equipment or place where the disease exists.

**15- Disease: destruction and disinfection.** \_ (1) An inspector who finds

- (a) bees infected with a disease,