

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 334
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30145-MKa-93B

Short Title: NCSU Honey Bee Laboratory/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives McGrady, Setzer, Harrison, and Ager (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A NEW FIELD
3 HONEY BEE LABORATORY FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
4 HONEY BEE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

5 Whereas, honey bees are an essential component of North Carolina's \$84 billion
6 agriculture industry; and

7 Whereas, there are approximately 500 species of bees in North Carolina, with the
8 honey bee designated as our State insect because of it being the primary managed pollinator
9 species and workhorse for state agriculture; and

10 Whereas, the 2.5 million colonies of honey bees in the nation are only half the number
11 of colonies that existed in 1950; and

12 Whereas, North Carolina lost over 50% of its honey bees last year and losses have
13 been consistently above sustainable levels for over a decade; and

14 Whereas, farmers rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide most of
15 the world's fruits, vegetables, and nuts; and

16 Whereas, the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Honey Bee Research program
17 is engaged in important research relating to the reproduction of honey bees, particularly queen
18 bees; and

19 Whereas, NCSU is in desperate need of funding for a replacement facility for the
20 Field Honey Bee Laboratory; Now, therefore,
21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors
23 of The University of North Carolina to be allocated to North Carolina State University (NCSU)
24 (i) for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring
25 funds for equipment costs and construction of a new Field Honey Bee Laboratory for the NCSU
26 Honey Bee Research program and (ii) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of one hundred fifty
27 thousand dollars (\$150,000) in recurring funds to support the operations of the Field Honey Bee
28 Laboratory. These funds shall be used by the NCSU Honey Bee Research program to address the
29 challenges posed by declining honey bee colonies.

30 **SECTION 2.** To further support the operations of the NCSU Field Honey Bee
31 Laboratory, the funds appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture for
32 honey bee pest control shall be reduced by fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in recurring funds
33 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Instead, there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board
34 of Governors the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in recurring funds for the 2020-2021
35 fiscal year to be allocated to the entomology department at NCSU.

36 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.

