

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2158

As Amended by House Committee on
Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Brief*

HB 2158, as amended, would allow beekeepers who meet certain requirements to sell packaged honey and honeycomb to be exempt from obtaining a food establishment or food processing plant license. The bill also provides an exemption for beekeepers who meet certain requirements from the Kansas Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

Definitions

The bill would define the following terms:

- “Honey” as the nectar and saccharine exudations of plants that are gathered, modified, and stored in the comb by honeybees;
- “Honeycomb” means a structure of cells composed of beeswax in which bees store honey; and
- “Unaltered” means left raw and in the original state after harvesting and, if applicable, straining. “Unaltered” does not include honey or honeycomb that has been pasteurized.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

Exemptions

The bill would provide an exemption from the requirement to hold a food establishment or food processing plant license if a beekeeper:

- Packages honey and honeycomb on the property of the beekeeper harvesting and selling such products;
- Labels packaged honey and honeycomb with:
 - A “honey” or “honeycomb” designation. The floral source may be a part of the name if the product contains a significant amount of pollen from that flower;
 - The name, address, and zip code of the beekeeper packaging the honey or honeycomb; and
 - the net weight of the contents.
- Keeps honey and honeycomb unaltered and free from additional additives;
- Harvests honey or honeycomb within the State of Kansas;
- Maintains annual gross sales from honey and honeycomb that does not exceed \$50,000; and
- Maintains a record of sales of such products and makes the record available to the Department of Agriculture when requested. The record should include:
 - The amount of honey or honeycomb sold by container size;
 - Where such honey or honeycomb was sold; and
 - The date of such sales.

Any beekeeper who meets these requirements, excluding the annual gross sales requirement, would not be required to acquire or maintain a commercial kitchen facility to obtain a license.

Background

The bill was introduced by Representative Schmoe at the request of the Kansas Honey Producers Association and the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association.

House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Justice Institute, a representative from the Kansas Honey Producers Association, and a private citizen. Proponents generally stated honey and honeycomb are safe products due to their natural properties and the bill could remove restrictions to business growth.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative from New Hope Farm and Apiary. The opponent stated the bill would weaken food safety regulations and disrupt fair competition.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by four private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to remove the requirement for beekeepers to acquire or maintain a commercial kitchen if they meet all other requirements of the bill excluding the annual gross sales requirements.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Department of Agriculture estimates enactment of the bill would reduce revenue to the Food Safety and Lodging Program's fee fund by \$5,550 in both FY 2026 and FY 2027. Each license fee costs \$150, and the Department estimates that up to 37 food processing licenses would be exempted.

Honey; honeycomb; food processing plant licensing