

TITLE 22
AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

CHAPTER 28
HONEY INDUSTRY

22-2801. SHORT TITLE. This act may be known as the Honey Industry Act.

[22-2801, added 1949, ch. 147, sec. 1, p. 301.]

22-2802. DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE OF CHAPTER. It is hereby declared, as a matter of legislative determination, that the honey industry of Idaho is in dire need of concentrated state and national advertising and promotion to increase the consumption of honey; that other states are promulgating advertising and promotion campaigns for the betterment of the honey industry; that honey is an essential food and its use should be placed in name and fact before the people of America; that in the interest of public welfare and general prosperity of the people of the state of Idaho, the honey industry and beekeeping in general should be maintained and encouraged so that the many food values and quality of honey and the many pollinating values of the domesticated honey bees may be better understood, protected and greater use thereof made.

[22-2802, added 1949, ch. 147, sec. 2, p. 301; am. 2012, ch. 123, sec. 1, p. 342.]

22-2803. DEFINITIONS. Whenever used or referred to in this chapter, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

- (1) "Commission" means the Idaho honey commission.
- (2) "Honey producer" or "beekeeper" means a person, firm or corporation engaged in the art of raising, harboring, keeping or breeding domesticated honey bees either for the purpose of gathering honey or the production of queens and/or packaged bees.
- (3) "Honey by-products" means items using honey as a base such as creamed honey, whipped honey, or the like.
- (4) "Packer" means any honey producer or beekeeper or person who processes and packs honey for commercial retail sales.
- (5) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, firm, association and agent.
- (6) "Director" means the director of the Idaho state department of agriculture or his designated representative.
- (7) "Official sample" means a sample of honey taken by the director or an authorized agent in accordance with the provisions of section [22-2810](#), Idaho Code.

[22-2803, added 1949, ch. 147, sec. 3, p. 301; am. 2012, ch. 123, sec. 2, p. 342; am. 2015, ch. 124, sec. 1, p. 312.]

22-2804. COMMISSION -- MEMBERS -- QUALIFICATIONS -- APPOINTMENT -- COMPENSATION. (1) There is hereby created and established in the department of agriculture the Idaho honey commission to be known and designated as such, and shall be composed of the director of the department and three (3) members who shall be honey producers or beekeepers.

(2) Each member shall be a resident citizen of the state of Idaho for a period of five (5) years prior to his appointment, shall be a commercial beekeeper as defined in section [22-2502](#), Idaho Code, actively engaged in honey production, registered as a beekeeper with the Idaho department of agriculture, and deriving a substantial portion of his income from honey production, or be the directing or managing head of a corporation, firm, partnership or other business unit that derives a substantial portion of its income from honey production. To continue as a member of the commission each member must remain qualified pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(3) The executive committee of the Idaho honey industry association may request the removal of a commissioner, with or without cause, by a majority vote. Upon receipt of such a request, the governor may immediately withdraw the commissioner's appointment.

(4) The Idaho honey industry association shall meet for the purpose of nominating members of the commission. The board of directors shall review the names of active beekeepers in Idaho that meet the qualifications as provided in this section. By June 1 of each year, the names of two (2) honey producers or beekeepers nominated by the association for each vacancy occurring on the commission shall be submitted to the governor for his consideration. From such list of nominees, the governor shall designate and appoint one (1) member for each vacancy on the commission.

(5) Members shall serve for a term of three (3) years. Terms shall expire on the last day of June of the year in which the term for which the members was appointed terminates. Provided however, each member shall serve until his respective successor is appointed and qualified. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the balance of the unexpired term. On and after the effective date of this act, terms that are currently vacant or held by the commission members shall expire and be filled on the following schedule: one (1) member term shall expire on June 30, 2015; one (1) member term shall expire on June 30, 2016; and one (1) member term shall expire on June 30, 2017.

(6) Commission members shall elect a chairman. The chairman may delegate the function of the Idaho honey commission to an administrator whose function will be subject to the approval of the Idaho honey commission.

(7) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business and the carrying out of the duties of the commission. Before entering on the discharge of their duties as members of the commission, each member shall take and subscribe to the oath of office prescribed by law.

(8) Each member of the commission shall be compensated as provided by section [59-509](#)(n), Idaho Code. The commission shall meet regularly once each fiscal year at a date established by said commission in its designated business office, and it shall fix the time and place of special meetings as may be deemed necessary by the chairman of the commission.

[22-2804, added 2015, ch. 124, sec. 3, p. 313.]

22-2805. POWER TO CONTRACT. The said commission shall have power to contract and be contracted with.

[22-2805, added 1949, ch. 147, sec. 5, p. 301.]

22-2806. ADMINISTRATION, WHERE VESTED. The administration of this act shall be vested in the Idaho honey commission which shall administer the taxes levied and imposed by this act.

[22-2806, added 1949, ch. 147, sec. 6, p. 301; am. 2015, ch. 124, sec. 4, p. 313.]

22-2807. DUTIES. The commission shall set honey quality, identity and labeling standards by rule, plan and conduct a campaign for honey and honey by-product advertising, publicity, merchandising, sales promotion and research, including bee research, and public education of beekeeping and honey production, by contracting with a service of the hereinabove mentioned, or jointly with any university or other state agency or states of the United States and its territories, or individually.

[22-2807, added 1949, ch. 147, sec. 7, p. 301; am. 2006, ch. 87, sec. 1, p. 257; am. 2012, ch. 123, sec. 3, p. 343.]

22-2808. RULES, STANDARDS, DEFINITIONS. The commission is hereby charged with the enforcement of this chapter, and after due publicity and due public hearing is empowered to promulgate and adopt such reasonable rules as may be necessary to carry into effect the full intent and meaning of this chapter, including the establishment of fees for services. The commission is hereby empowered to adopt rules establishing definitions for honey including establishing standards of identity, quality and labeling and such other rules as may be necessary for the enforcement of any provision of this chapter. In establishing standards of identity, quality and labeling the commission shall give consideration to any definitions and standards used by a federal agency, another state or an organization administering a regional, multi-regional, national or international agreement on honey.

[22-2808, added 2012, ch. 123, sec. 4, p. 343.]

22-2809. LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES -- CHANGE OF TAX BY REFERENDUM -- VIOLATIONS -- PENALTY. (1) There is hereby levied and imposed upon each colony or hive of bees within the state of Idaho on July 1 of each year a continuing annual tax of five cents (5¢) per hive or colony of bees beginning in the year 1970 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter. Hobbyist beekeepers, as defined in [chapter 25, title 22](#), Idaho Code, are exempt from taxation under this section. Provided however, that any hobbyist beekeeper who desires to support the efforts of the commission, as set forth in section [22-2807](#), Idaho Code, and desires to be included in registration lists distributed as authorized under section [22-2815](#), Idaho Code, may register with the commission for that purpose by remitting an annual registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00).

(2) The tax may be decreased to not less than three cents (3¢) per hive or colony per year or it may be increased to not more than ten cents (10¢) per hive or colony per year, if approved by a majority of the beekeepers voting in a referendum held for the purpose of determining whether such levy of the tax shall or shall not be changed. If the levy of the tax is changed, the levy of the tax will continue annually at the changed rate until again changed by another referendum. Any resident of Idaho who is a registered Idaho beekeeper with the department of agriculture, and is not exempt from taxation as provided in subsection (1) of this section, may vote at such referendum. Any referendum held for the purpose of changing the levy of such tax shall be held at the annual meeting of the Idaho honey industry association or any successor organization to this group.

(3) Notice of the tax provided for in this section shall be mailed no later than June 1 and the tax shall be due and payable on or before July 1 of each year, and it shall be collected by the Idaho department of agriculture and shall forthwith be paid over by the Idaho department of agriculture to the Idaho honey fund.

(4) Said tax shall be a lien upon all apicultural products, equipment, bees and property of the person owning or controlling such bees and shall be prior to all other liens or encumbrances except liens which are declared prior by operation of the statutes of this state.

(5) Hives brought into the state for indoor winter storage prior to moving to another state for pollination or honey production are exempt from paying fees and taxes as provided for in this section. Provided however, registration shall be required and a minimum of the following information shall be supplied: location of the storage, approximate dates the hive or hives will be brought into and leave the state, name, address and telephone number of the owner of the bees, and name, address and telephone number of an in-state contact who will have knowledge of the hive or hives being stored in the state.

[(22-2809) 22-2808, added 1970, ch. 46, sec. 1, p. 95; am. 1991, ch. 225, sec. 1, p. 537; am. 2006, ch. 87, sec. 2, p. 257; am. and redesign. 2012, ch. 123, sec. 5, p. 343; am. 2014, ch. 46, sec. 2, p. 123; am. 2015, ch. 124, sec. 5, p. 314.]

22-2810. SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS. (1) For the purpose of enforcement of this chapter, and in order to determine whether its provisions have been complied with, including whether or not any operations may be subject to such provisions, officers or employees duly designated by the director or commission upon presenting appropriate credentials, to the owner, operator, or agent in charge, are authorized upon written complaint:

(a) To enter, during normal business hours, any factory, warehouse, or establishment within the state in which honey is processed, packed, or held for distribution for retail sales, or to enter any vehicle being used to transport or hold such honey, and sample such honey that is packaged and labeled for retail sale.

(b) To inspect at reasonable times and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner, such factory, warehouse, establishment or vehicle and all pertinent equipment, finished and unfinished materials, containers, and labeling therein, related to retail sales. The inspection may include the verification of only such records, and production and control procedures as may be necessary to determine compliance with the good manufacturing practice rules established under the provisions of this chapter. Each inspection shall be commenced and completed with reasonable promptness. Upon completion of the inspection, the person in charge of the facility or vehicle shall be so notified.

(2) Sampling and analysis shall be conducted in accordance with methods prescribed in rules, or in accordance with other generally recognized methods.

(3) The director or commission, in determining for administrative purposes whether a honey is adulterated, shall be guided by the official sample as defined in subsection (7) of section [22-2803](#), Idaho Code, and obtained and analyzed as provided for in this section.

(4) If the owner of any factory, warehouse, or establishment described in subsection (1) of this section, or authorized agent, refuses to admit the

director, commission or an authorized agent to inspect in accordance with subsections (1) and (5) of this section, the director or commission is authorized to obtain from any state court of competent jurisdiction a warrant directing such owner or agent to submit the premises described in such warrant to inspection.

(5) For the enforcement of this chapter, the director, commission or a duly authorized agent is authorized to enter upon any public or private premises including any vehicle of transport during regular business hours to have access to, and to obtain samples, and to examine and make copies of records relating to distribution of honey packaged and labeled for retail sale to the public.

(6) The results of all analyses of official samples shall be forwarded by the director or commission to the packer and to the purchaser or retailer. When the inspection and analysis of an official sample indicate the honey has been adulterated or mislabeled, and upon request by the packer or purchaser or retailer within thirty (30) days following the receipt of the analysis, the director or commission shall furnish to the packer or purchaser or retailer a portion of the sample concerned.

[22-2810, added 2012, ch. 123, sec. 6, p. 344.]

22-2811. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS. (1) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter, or of the rules promulgated hereunder for carrying out the provisions of this chapter, or who fails or refuses to comply with any requirements herein specified, or who interferes with the department, its agents or employees, in the execution, or on account of the execution of its or their duties under this chapter or rules promulgated hereunder, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) or be imprisoned in a county jail for not more than twelve (12) months or be subject to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Any person who violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter or any rules promulgated hereunder may be assessed a civil penalty by the department or its duly authorized agent of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each offense and shall be liable for reasonable attorney's fees.

(a) Assessment of a civil penalty may be made in conjunction with any other department administrative action.

(b) No civil penalty may be assessed unless the person charged was given notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Idaho administrative procedure act.

(c) If the department is unable to collect such penalty or if any person fails to pay all or a set portion of the civil penalty as determined by the department, it may recover such amount by action in the appropriate district court.

(d) Any person against whom the department has assessed a civil penalty under the provisions of this section may, within thirty (30) days of the final action by the agency making the assessment, appeal the assessment to the district court of the county in which the violation is alleged by the department to have occurred.

(e) All civil penalties collected pursuant to this section shall be remitted to the commission.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring the commission to report minor violations for prosecution when it believes that the

public interest will be best served by suitable warnings or other administrative action.

[22-2811, added 2012, ch. 123, sec. 7, p. 345.]

22-2812. "STOP SALE, USE, OR REMOVAL" ORDERS. (1) In the event the department finds that honey is being offered for sale in violation of this chapter or rules promulgated under this chapter, the department may issue and enforce a written or printed "stop sale, use, or removal" order to the distributor, owner or custodian of the honey and hold the honey, or order it held, at a designated place until the law has been complied with and the honey is released in writing by the department, or the violation has been otherwise legally disposed of by written authority. Unless the department grants a written extension, the owner or custodian of any honey that has been issued a "stop sale, use, or removal" order shall remedy the violation within thirty (30) days. The department shall release the honey so withdrawn when the requirements of this chapter have been complied with and all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the withdrawal have been paid.

(2) Any lot of honey not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, or rules promulgated under this chapter, shall be subject to seizure on complaint of the commission to a court of competent jurisdiction in the area in which said honey is located. In the event the court finds the said honey to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter and orders the condemnation of said honey, it shall be disposed of in any manner consistent with the quality of the honey and the laws of the state. Provided however, that in no instance shall the disposition of said honey be ordered by the court without first giving the claimant an opportunity to apply to the court for release of said honey or for permission to process or relabel said honey to bring it into compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

[22-2812, added 2012, ch. 123, sec. 8, p. 346.]

22-2813. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND COSTS. All expenses and costs incurred in the administration of this chapter shall be paid out of the Idaho honey fund. The commission shall keep an accurate record of all costs and expenditures and will report the same by publication on October 1st of each year. All expenses and costs incurred and contracted for by the commission in performing its duties under this chapter shall be paid out of such Idaho honey fund in the following manner: vouchers shall be approved and submitted by the commission chairman to the director or his designated representative of the Idaho state department of agriculture for approval and subsequent issuance of a warrant by the state controller.

[(22-2813) 22-2809, added 1951, ch. 62, sec. 2, p. 91; am. 1974, ch. 13, sec. 6, p. 138; am. 1994, ch. 180, sec. 20, p. 435; am. 2003, ch. 32, sec. 6, p. 120; am. and redesign. 2012, ch. 123, sec. 9, p. 346; am. 2015, ch. 124, sec. 6, p. 314.]

22-2814. CREDITING OF FUNDS. All moneys which have heretofore been credited to the general fund under the provisions of this chapter are hereby transferred to the Idaho honey fund.

[(22-2814) 22-2810, added 1951, ch. 62, sec. 3, p. 91; am. and redesign. 2012, ch. 123, sec. 10, p. 346; am. 2015, ch. 124, sec. 7, p. 315.]

22-2815. PUBLICATION OF REGISTERED BEEKEEPERS. The commission shall make available to any pesticide applicator registered with the department, abatement or pest control district, or university of Idaho county agricultural extension office, a list of beekeepers registered with the commission. The list shall include the names and telephone numbers of the beekeepers, the counties in which they keep bees, and any other information the commission deems necessary to assist in the prevention of accidental poisoning of honeybees.

[(22-2815) 22-2811, added 2006, ch. 87, sec. 3, p. 258; am. 2007, ch. 188, sec. 14, p. 554; am. and redesign. 2012, ch. 123, sec. 11, p. 346.]