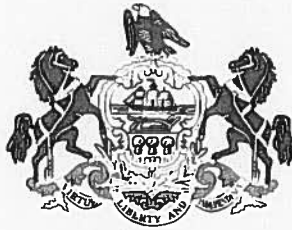


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**House of Representatives**  
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Harrisburg

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**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Rep. Sandra J. Major *SJM*

**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsor Memo - Exempt farm honey sales from food establishment licensing/registration

**DATE:** July 2, 2012

Many of you may be hearing from your local beekeepers regarding changes made to the food safety laws in 2010 (Act 106) that could negatively impact the hobbyist, backyard and part-time beekeeper. The registration requirements could reduce the number of beekeepers, their ability to cover expenses, decrease pollination potential and inflate prices for honey. In an effort to address the concerns raised, I intend to offer legislation that will exempt certain honey producers from food establishment registration.

Under the prior Food Act (1994-70, now repealed and replaced by 3 PACS, Chapter 57, Subchapter B), food processors (including those who packaged honey) who used at least 50% of the products processed from their own farm only had to pay the \$35 registration fee if they sold the product off the farm, or if they wished to use "Reg. PA Dept. of Ag" on their label. The provision related to the 50% of on-farm commodities no longer exists in the new, codified law and as such, all food processors must be registered and pay the \$35 fee.

The proposed legislation will exempt from food establishment registration and retail food facility licensing any person who is in compliance with the Honey Sale and Labeling Act (Act 184 of 1974) and who processes 100% of the honey products offered to the public on the farm from which the products are offered. If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Teri Swanger at [tswanger@pahousegop.com](mailto:tswanger@pahousegop.com) or by calling 783-2910.

SJM/ts