

# SENATE RESOLUTION 55

(By Senators Smith (Mr. President), Hamilton, Taylor,  
and Rucker)

[Introduced March 2, 2026]

1 Recognizing honeybees and their importance to agriculture and the economy in West Virginia.

2       Whereas, Agriculture depends greatly on honeybees for pollination and honeybees  
3 pollinate \$15 billion worth of crops in the United States each year; and

4       Whereas, Many of West Virginia's important crops, including fruits, vegetables, and  
5 grasses rely on honeybee pollination, and without such pollination there would be a significant  
6 decrease in crop yield. Pollinators contribute directly to food security, pollinating one-third of all  
7 food consumed; and

8       Whereas, West Virginia has both small hobbyist beekeepers maintaining only a few hives  
9 and full-scale commercial operations managing thousands of colonies, collectively supporting an  
10 estimated 16,000 honeybee colonies statewide; and

11       Whereas, These colonies produce at least 250,000 pounds of honey annually, contributing  
12 to the state's agricultural economy and local food system; and

13       Whereas, Honeybees are susceptible to diseases, parasites, habitat loss, and  
14 environmental stressors that have contributed to significant colony declines in recent decades;  
15 and

16       Whereas, Despite these challenges, West Virginia's beekeepers have demonstrated  
17 perseverance in continuing to promote healthy pollinator populations; and

18       Whereas, Overly restrictive local ordinances have created challenges for the state's  
19 beekeepers seeking to maintain honeybee colonies; and

1           Whereas, In 2002, the West Virginia Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 9  
2 designating the honeybee as the official state insect, recognizing its vital role in the state's  
3 agricultural heritage; therefore, be it

4           *Resolved by the Senate:*

5           That the Senate hereby recognizes honeybees and their importance to agriculture and the  
6 economy in West Virginia; and, be it

7           *Further Resolved,* That the Senate continues to support beekeepers and policies that  
8 promote healthy pollinator populations in the state; and, be it

9           *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to  
10 the Commissioner of Agriculture.