Bill of concern to beekeepers

A bill that would ease requirements for spraying pesticides by drones in New Hampshire will be considered in a public hearing by the N.H. House Environment and Agriculture Committee on Wednesday, March 13, at 1:30 p.m. on the third floor (301-303) of the Legislative Office Building, 33 N. State St., Concord, NH, 03301.

Under House Bill 1698, people who use drones to spray pesticide would no longer need to meet certain current requirements for the aerial spraying of pesticides, including getting approval from the state and notifying neighbors with buildings within 200 feet of the treatment area.

These pesticides can kill bees and other pollinators. Beekeepers want to know when aerial spraying, including by drones, is going to occur. HB 1698 would remove that notification requirement for pesticide application by drones. There are also other concerns about drones relative to privacy and safety.

Those concerned about the bill can testify in person, or through online testimony or both. The link for online testimony is:

The New Hampshire House of Representatives

Eventually, the committee will schedule a vote on whether to recommend the bill to the full House. The full House would vote on it. A Senate committee would then hold a public hearing on it, and the full Senate would vote. If approved by the House and Senate, the bill would go to the governor who could sign it into law.

The bill:

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