

HOUSE BILL 159

M4

2lr1082
CF SB 193

By: **Delegates Afzali, Barkley, Clagett, Elliott, Feldman, Gaines, Glass, Hershey, Hogan, Ivey, Jacobs, A. Kelly, Krebs, Luedtke, McComas, McDermott, McHale, A. Miller, Myers, Niemann, Otto, Parrott, Ready, Ross, Schulz, Sophocleus, Walker, and Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2012

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture – Maryland Standard of Identity for Honey**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Maryland standard of identity for honey; requiring
4 the standard to be applied to certain products; authorizing the designation of
5 certain products as honey; requiring certain products to be distinguished from
6 pure honey under certain circumstances; authorizing certain naming and
7 labeling requirements for honey; requiring that the country of origin be declared
8 on the label for a certain honey designation; requiring that certain styles of
9 honey be declared on the label; authorizing a person that has suffered certain
10 damages to bring a certain action to recover damages in a certain court;
11 clarifying that, notwithstanding certain provisions of law, the Department of
12 Agriculture is not required to enforce the requirements of this Act; defining
13 certain terms; and generally relating to establishing a standard of identity for
14 honey in Maryland.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Agriculture

17 Section 10–1901 through 10–1907 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 19.
18 Standard of Identity for Honey”

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Agriculture**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **SUBTITLE 19. STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR HONEY.**

2 **10-1901.**

3 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
4 **INDICATED.**

5 **(B) “BLOSSOM HONEY” OR “NECTAR HONEY” MEANS HONEY THAT**
6 **COMES FROM NECTARS OF PLANTS.**

7 **(C) “HONEY” MEANS THE NATURAL FOOD PRODUCT THAT:**

8 **(1) HONEY BEES PRODUCE FROM THE NECTAR OF PLANTS,**
9 **SECRETIONS OF LIVING PARTS OF PLANTS, OR EXCRETIONS OF**
10 **PLANT-SUCKING INSECTS ON THE LIVING PARTS OF PLANTS;**

11 **(2) HONEY BEES COLLECT, TRANSFORM BY COMBINING WITH**
12 **SPECIFIC SUBSTANCES OF THEIR OWN, DEPOSIT, DEHYDRATE, STORE, AND**
13 **LEAVE IN THE HONEY COMB TO RIPEN AND MATURE;**

14 **(3) CONSISTS ESSENTIALLY OF DIFFERENT SUGARS,**
15 **PREDOMINANTLY FRUCTOSE AND GLUCOSE, AND OTHER SUBSTANCES,**
16 **INCLUDING ORGANIC ACIDS, ENZYMES, AND SOLID PARTICLES DERIVED FROM**
17 **HONEY COLLECTION;**

18 **(4) HAS THE COLOR THAT MAY VARY FROM NEARLY COLORLESS**
19 **TO DARK BROWN;**

20 **(5) HAS THE CONSISTENCY THAT MAY BE FLUID, VISCOUS, OR**
21 **PARTLY TO ENTIRELY CRYSTALLIZED; AND**

22 **(6) HAS THE FLAVOR AND AROMA THAT ARE DERIVED FROM THE**
23 **PLANT OF ORIGIN AND MAY VARY.**

24 **(D) “HONEYDEW HONEY” MEANS HONEY THAT COMES MAINLY FROM**
25 **EXCRETIONS OF PLANT-SUCKING INSECTS (HEMIPTERA) ON THE LIVING PARTS**
26 **OF PLANTS OR SECRETIONS OF LIVING PARTS OF PLANTS.**

27 **10-1902.**

28 **THERE IS A MARYLAND STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR HONEY.**

29 **10-1903.**

1 **THE MARYLAND STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR HONEY SHALL APPLY TO:**

2 **(1) ALL HONEY PRODUCED BY HONEY BEES FROM NECTAR;**

3 **(2) ALL STYLES OF HONEY PRESENTATION THAT ARE PROCESSED**
4 **AND ULTIMATELY INTENDED FOR DIRECT CONSUMPTION; AND**

5 **(3) ALL HONEY PACKED, PROCESSED, OR INTENDED FOR SALE IN**
6 **BULK CONTAINERS AS HONEY THAT MAY BE REPACKED FOR RETAIL SALE OR**
7 **FOR USE AS AN INGREDIENT IN OTHER FOODS.**

8 **10-1904.**

9 **(A) A PRODUCT MEETS THE MARYLAND STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR**
10 **HONEY IF THE PRODUCT:**

11 **(1) DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN HONEY,**
12 **INCLUDING ANY FOOD ADDITIVE AS DEFINED IN § 21-101 OF THE**
13 **HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE;**

14 **(2) HAS NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO CHEMICAL OR BIOCHEMICAL**
15 **TREATMENTS USED TO INFLUENCE HONEY CRYSTALLIZATION;**

16 **(3) HAS NOT HAD ANY WATER ADDED TO THE PRODUCT IN THE**
17 **COURSE OF EXTRACTION OR PACKING FOR SALE OR RESALE AS HONEY;**

18 **(4) HAS NOT BEGUN TO FERMENT OR EFFERVESCE;**

19 **(5) DOES NOT HAVE A MOISTURE CONTENT GREATER THAN:**

20 **(I) 23% FOR HEATHER HONEY (CALLUNA); OR**

21 **(II) 18.6% FOR ALL OTHER HONEY;**

22 **(6) DOES NOT HAVE A WATER-INSOLUBLE-SOLIDS CONTENT**
23 **GREATER THAN:**

24 **(I) 0.5 GRAM PER 100 GRAMS FOR PRESSED HONEY; OR**

25 **(II) 0.1 GRAM PER 100 GRAMS FOR ALL OTHER HONEY;**

1 **10-1905.**

2 (A) A PERSON MAY DESIGNATE A FOOD PRODUCT AS “HONEY” IF THE
3 PRODUCT CONFORMS TO THE MARYLAND STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR HONEY
4 SET FORTH IN § 10-1904 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5 (B) IF A FOOD PRODUCT CONTAINS ANY FLAVORING, SPICE, OR OTHER
6 INGREDIENT IN ADDITION TO HONEY, THE NAME OF THE PRODUCT SHALL
7 DISTINGUISH THE PRODUCT FROM PURE HONEY AND DESIGNATE THE FOOD
8 ADDITIVE.

9 (C) IF PROCESSING MATERIALLY CHANGES THE FLAVOR, COLOR,
10 VISCOSITY, OR OTHER MATERIAL CHARACTERISTIC OF PURE HONEY, THE NAME
11 OF THE PRODUCT SHALL DISTINGUISH THE PRODUCT FROM PURE HONEY AND
12 DESIGNATE THE MODIFICATION.

13 (D) FOR BLOSSOM OR NECTAR HONEY, THE NAME OF THE FOOD MAY BE
14 SUPPLEMENTED BY THE TERM “BLOSSOM” OR “NECTAR”.

15 (E) FOR HONEYDEW HONEY, THE WORD “HONEYDEW” MAY BE PLACED
16 IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE NAME OF THE FOOD.

17 (F) FOR MIXTURES OF BLOSSOM OR NECTAR HONEY WITH HONEYDEW
18 HONEY, THE NAME OF THE FOOD MAY BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH THE WORDS “A
19 BLEND OF HONEYDEW HONEY WITH BLOSSOM HONEY” OR “A BLEND OF
20 HONEYDEW HONEY WITH NECTAR HONEY”.

21 (G) (1) HONEY MAY BE DESIGNATED BY THE NAME OF A
22 GEOGRAPHICAL OR TOPOGRAPHICAL REGION IF THE HONEY WAS PRODUCED
23 EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN THE AREA REFERRED TO IN THE DESIGNATION.

24 (2) WHEN HONEY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE NAME OF A
25 GEOGRAPHICAL OR TOPOGRAPHICAL REGION, THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY
26 WHERE THE HONEY HAS BEEN PRODUCED SHALL BE DECLARED ON THE LABEL.

27 (H) (1) HONEY MAY BE DESIGNATED ACCORDING TO A FLORAL OR
28 PLANT SOURCE IF IT COMES WHOLLY OR MAINLY FROM THAT PARTICULAR
29 SOURCE AND HAS THE ORGANOLEPTIC, PHYSICOCHEMICAL, AND MICROSCOPIC
30 PROPERTIES CORRESPONDING WITH THAT ORIGIN.

31 (2) WHEN HONEY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED ACCORDING TO A
32 FLORAL OR PLANT SOURCE:

1 **(I) THE COMMON NAME OR THE BOTANICAL NAME OF THE**
2 **FLORAL SOURCE SHALL BE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE WORD “HONEY”; AND**

3 **(II) THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE HONEY HAS**
4 **BEEN PRODUCED SHALL BE DECLARED ON THE LABEL.**

5 **(I) (1) HONEY MAY BE DESIGNATED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING**
6 **METHODS OF REMOVAL FROM THE COMB:**

7 **(I) “EXTRACTED HONEY” IS HONEY OBTAINED BY**
8 **CENTRIFUGING DECAPPED BROODLESS COMBS;**

9 **(II) “PRESSED HONEY” IS HONEY OBTAINED BY PRESSING**
10 **BROODLESS COMBS; OR**

11 **(III) “DRAINED HONEY” IS HONEY OBTAINED BY DRAINING**
12 **DECAPPED BROODLESS COMBS.**

13 **(2) THE DESIGNATIONS IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION**
14 **MAY NOT BE USED UNLESS THE HONEY CONFORMS TO THE APPLICABLE**
15 **DESCRIPTION.**

16 **(J) (1) HONEY MAY BE DESIGNATED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING**
17 **STYLES:**

18 **(I) “HONEY” THAT IS HONEY IN LIQUID, CRYSTALLINE**
19 **STATE, OR A MIXTURE OF THE TWO;**

20 **(II) “COMB HONEY” THAT IS HONEY STORED BY BEES IN**
21 **THE CELLS OF FRESHLY BUILT BROODLESS COMBS AND THAT IS SOLD IN**
22 **SEALED WHOLE COMBS OR SECTIONS OF SUCH COMBS; OR**

23 **(III) “CUT COMB IN HONEY”, “HONEY WITH COMB”, OR**
24 **“CHUNK HONEY” THAT IS HONEY CONTAINING ONE OR MORE PIECES OF COMB**
25 **HONEY.**

26 **(2) THE STYLES DESIGNATED IN PARAGRAPH (1)(II) AND (III) OF**
27 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE DECLARED ON THE LABEL.**

28 **10-1906.**

1 A PERSON THAT SUFFERS DAMAGES AS A RESULT OF A VIOLATION OF
2 THIS SUBTITLE MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION FOR DAMAGES IN ANY COURT OF
3 COMPETENT JURISDICTION.

4 **10-1907.**

5 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE RELATING
6 TO THE EXERCISE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY, THE
7 DEPARTMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO ENFORCE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
8 SUBTITLE.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2012.