
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6214

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Hatfield, Hasegawa, Hewitt, and Chase)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to industrial hemp; adding a new chapter to Title
2 15 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to investigate the
5 various economic opportunities and industrial uses associated with
6 industrial hemp cultivation and production as a farm product in the
7 state of Washington. Through conducting a study, the legislature
8 intends to assess whether the state's growing conditions and economic
9 potential are favorable for the production of industrial hemp so that
10 growers and other businesses in Washington's agricultural industry may
11 take advantage of this market opportunity. Furthermore, should the
12 study find favorable growing conditions, it is the intent of the
13 legislature to encourage the development of an industrial hemp industry
14 as a fecund addition to our state's cornucopia.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
16 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (1) "Agribusiness" means the processing of raw agricultural

1 products, including but not limited to timber and industrial hemp, or
2 the performance of value-added functions with regard to raw
3 agricultural products.

4 (2) "Grower" means any person or business entity growing industrial
5 hemp.

6 (3) "Hemp products" includes all products made from industrial hemp
7 including, but not limited to, cloth, cordage, fiber, food, fuel,
8 paint, paper, particle board, plastics, seed, seed meal and seed oil
9 for consumption, and certified seed for cultivation, if the seeds
10 originate from industrial hemp varieties.

11 (4) "Industrial hemp" means all parts and varieties of the plant
12 cannabis sativa, cultivated or possessed by a licensed grower, whether
13 growing or not, that contain a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of
14 point three percent or less by weight, except that the THC
15 concentration limit of point three percent may be exceeded for licensed
16 industrial hemp seed research.

17 (5) "Tetrahydrocannabinol" or "THC" means synthetic equivalents of
18 the substances contained in cannabis sativa, or in the resinous
19 extractives of, cannabis, or synthetic substances, compounds, salts, or
20 derivatives of cannabis sativa or chemicals and their isomers with
21 similar chemical structure and pharmacological activity.

22 (6) "THC concentration" means percent of total THC, which is the
23 combined percent of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol and
24 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid in any part of the plant Cannabis,
25 regardless of moisture content.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Industrial hemp is an agricultural product
27 that may be grown, produced, possessed, and commercially traded in the
28 state.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department may, by rule, establish
30 necessary criteria for the certification of the genetic purity and
31 identity of industrial hemp seeds as agricultural seed for purposes of
32 complying with chapter 15.49 RCW.

33 (2) The department may provide technical assistance to the grower.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Washington State University shall study
35 the feasibility and desirability of industrial hemp production in

1 Washington state. In conducting the study, the university shall gather
2 information from agricultural and scientific literature, consulting
3 with experts and the public, and reviewing the best practices of other
4 states and countries worldwide regarding the development of markets for
5 industrial hemp and hemp products. The study must include an analysis
6 of:

7 (a) The market economic conditions affecting the development of an
8 industrial hemp industry in the state;

9 (b) The estimated value-added benefit that Washington's economy
10 would reap from having a developed industrial hemp industry in the
11 state;

12 (c) Whether Washington soils and growing conditions are appropriate
13 for economically viable levels of industrial hemp production;

14 (d) The agronomy research being conducted worldwide relating to
15 industrial hemp varieties, production, and use; and

16 (e) Other legislative acts, experiences, and outcomes around the
17 world regarding industrial hemp production.

18 (2)(a) The university shall report its findings to the legislature
19 by January 14, 2015.

20 (b) The report must include recommendations for any legislative
21 actions necessary to encourage and support the development of an
22 industrial hemp industry in the state of Washington.

23 (3) This section expires August 1, 2015.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
25 a new chapter in Title 15 RCW.

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