
SENATE BILL 5012

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Hatfield, Honeyford, Rolfes, Ericksen, Kohl-Welles, Hasegawa, Chase, and Hobbs

Prefiled 12/15/14. Read first time 01/12/15. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development.

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

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to authorize the
6 growing of industrial hemp as a legal, agricultural activity in this
7 state.

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

11 (1) "Grower" means any person or business entity growing
12 industrial hemp.

13 (2) "Hemp products" includes all products made from industrial
14 hemp including, but not limited to, cloth, cordage, fiber, food,
15 fuel, paint, paper, particle board, plastics, seed, seed meal and
16 seed oil for consumption, and certified seed for cultivation, if the
17 seeds originate from industrial hemp varieties.

18 (3) "Industrial hemp" means all parts and varieties of the plant
19 *Cannabis sativa*, cultivated or possessed by a grower, whether growing
20 or not, that contain a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of 0.3

1 percent or less by weight, except that the THC concentration limit of
2 0.3 percent may be exceeded for licensed industrial hemp seed
3 research.

4 (4) "THC concentration" means percent of total THC, which is the
5 combined percent of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol and
6 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid in any part of the plant *Cannabis sativa*,
7 regardless of moisture content.

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

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Subject to receiving federal or
12 private funds for this purpose, Washington State University shall
13 study the feasibility and desirability of industrial hemp production
14 in Washington. In conducting the study, the Washington State
15 University shall gather information from agricultural and scientific
16 literature, consult with experts and the public, and review the best
17 practices of other states and countries worldwide regarding the
18 development of markets for industrial hemp and hemp products. The
19 study must include an analysis of:

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

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

25 (c) Whether Washington soils and growing conditions are
26 appropriate for use of hemp in the rotation of other crops and
27 whether soils and growing conditions are appropriate for farming
28 industrial hemp at economically viable levels;

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

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

33 (2)(a) Washington State University shall report its findings to
34 the legislature by January 14, 2016.

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

38 (3) This section expires August 1, 2016.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 15 RCW.

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