
SENATE BILL 6206

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Hasegawa, Takko, Chase, Schoesler, and Sheldon

Read first time 01/12/16. 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) "Department" means the Washington state department of
12 agriculture.

13 (2) "Grower" means any person or business entity growing
14 industrial hemp.

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

1 (4) "Industrial hemp" means all parts and varieties of the plant
2 *Cannabis sativa*, cultivated or possessed by a grower, whether growing
3 or not, that contain a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of 0.3
4 percent or less by weight, except that the THC concentration limit of
5 0.3 percent may be exceeded for licensed industrial hemp seed
6 research.

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

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

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department may, within existing
15 resources, adopt rules as necessary to ensure compliance with any
16 state rules and federal regulations as well as to foster a fair,
17 safe, and competitive market for domestic hemp production throughout
18 the state.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Subject to receiving federal or
20 private funds for this purpose, Washington State University shall
21 study the feasibility and desirability of industrial hemp production
22 in Washington. In conducting the study, the Washington State
23 University shall gather information from agricultural and scientific
24 literature, consult with experts and the public, and review the best
25 practices of other states and countries worldwide regarding the
26 development of markets for industrial hemp and hemp products. The
27 study must include an analysis of:

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

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

33 (c) Whether Washington soils and growing conditions are
34 appropriate for use of hemp in the rotation of other crops and
35 whether soils and growing conditions are appropriate for farming
36 industrial hemp at economically viable levels;

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

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

5 (2)(a) Washington State University shall report its findings to
6 the legislature by January 14, 2017.

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

10 (3) This section expires August 1, 2017.

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

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