
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6500

AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL REVISIONS TO THE STATE'S HEMP PROGRAM STATUTE.

SUMMARY

This bill makes changes to the state's hemp program statute to comply with the federal U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) final rules for hemp production, which became effective March 22, 2021. Compliance is necessary for the state to receive federal approval of its state hemp production plan.

Under state and federal law, "hemp" is the plant *Cannabis sativa* L and any part of it, including seeds and derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.

The changes under the bill include:

1. allowing remediation of noncompliant crops done in accordance with federal law as an alternative to disposing of them as under current state law;
2. specifying that, in accordance with federal law and current practice, for those convicted of a state or federal controlled substance felony, the prohibition against holding a producer license lasts for 10 years from the conviction date;
3. requiring hemp producer license applicants to submit their employer identification number (EIN), or Social Security number if an EIN is not available, to the state agriculture department; and
4. eliminating a requirement that producer license applicants, who

must submit to fingerprint-based criminal history records checks, provide the results through December 31, 2021, to the agriculture commissioner (in practice, the Department of Emergency Service and Public Protection provides results to the agriculture department).

By law, anyone who produces hemp without a license or after a license was suspended or revoked commits an infraction. The bill makes this infraction payable by mail through the Central Infractions Bureau.

The bill makes other minor, technical, and conforming changes, including adding several terms included under the USDA final rule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/12/2021)