

# Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6500

AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL REVISIONS TO THE STATE'S HEMP

**Title:** PROGRAM STATUTE.

**Vote Date:** 3/12/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/3/2021

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. Joseph P. Gresko, 121st Dist.

Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.

Sen. Catherine A. Osten, 19th Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To bring hemp rules into compliance with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) final rule requirements. If the rules do not meet the requirements, USDA may not approve the state plan.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture**

Proposed changes to include revisions to Final Rules by the USDA for hemp production, updated from the USDA Interim rules for hemp production.

1. The numbering for sampling and testing was changed in the Final Rules and our statutes need to be renumbered accordingly.
2. Section 2 allows for remediation of noncompliant crops

3. Section 3 clarifies the restrictions on eligible licensees by specifying the ten-year conviction period- this change was at the request of USDA.
4. HB6500 contains language for background checks to obtain FBI approval which incorporates requirements by several state agencies and USDA hemp final rules.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

##### **Senator Cathy Osten**

In 2020, there were 140 licensed hemp growers who harvested 134 acres of land. Hemp production is a booming sector of the state's economy.

Proposed changes to the legislation will bring state law into to compliance with federal regulation.

##### **Joan Nichols, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association support the proposed changes to bring the state's hemp program into compliance with federal regulation.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None

**Reported by: Steve Smith**

**Date: 3/22/2021**