

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1174

DATE: 5-3-01

(Filing No. H-310)

MINORITY
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 882, L.D. 1174, Bill, "An Act to Legalize Hemp for Agricultural Purposes"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Authorizing the Cultivation of Industrial Hemp for Research Purposes'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1101, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1975, c. 740, §96, is further amended to read:

1. "Marijuana" includes the leaves, stems, flowers and seeds of all species of the plant genus cannabis, whether growing or not, but shall ~~shall~~ does not include the resin extracted from any part of such plant and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation from such resin, including hashish, and further, shall ~~shall~~ does not include the mature stalks of such plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of such mature stalks, fiber, oil or cake or the sterilized seed of such plant ~~which~~ that is incapable of germination. Marijuana does not include industrial hemp as defined in subsection 22.

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §1101, sub-§22 is enacted to read:

22. Industrial hemp. "Industrial hemp" means any variety of Cannabis sativa L. with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

concentration that does not exceed 0.3% on a dry weight basis and that is grown under a federal permit and in compliance with the conditions of that permit.

Sec. 3. Authorization for the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station to study the cultivation of industrial hemp. The Director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station may develop a study to explore the feasibility and desirability of industrial hemp production in this State. The study may include an analysis of required soils and growing conditions, seed availability and varieties, including in-the-ground seed variety trials, harvest methods, market economies and environmental benefits. Prior to undertaking a study, the director, in consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, shall obtain all federal permits needed to legally grow industrial hemp for fiber or seed production prior to importing any nonsterilized industrial hemp seeds capable of germination into the State.

Sec. 4. Directive to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall write to the Secretary of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency within the United States Department of Justice to express the department's support for research on the cultivation and economic benefits of industrial hemp and for the development of appropriate regulations to allow the domestic production of industrial hemp if research indicates industrial hemp has significant potential as a commercial agricultural crop. In expressing support, the commissioner may refer to the Industrial Hemp Petition presented to the United States Department of Agriculture and the Drug Enforcement Administration in March 1998 by a coalition of farmers, businesses and environmental groups and to the successful cultivation and regulation of industrial hemp in Canada.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The additional enforcement costs can be absorbed by the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources utilizing existing budgeted resources.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources will incur some minor additional costs to communicate in writing with certain federal agencies concerning the cultivation and economic benefits of industrial hemp. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.

