
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 421 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY STREET, SCHWANK, SABATINA, ARGALL, BROWNE,
FONTANA, COSTA AND GORDNER, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass the language
2 from the Hemp Farming Act of 2018, as contained in the 2018
3 Farm Bill, removing industrial hemp from the Schedule I
4 Controlled Substance List and legalizing commercial
5 industrial hemp production in the United States, and urging
6 the Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth to conduct
7 a study of industrial hemp research pilot programs and
8 prepare recommended draft statutory and regulatory language.

9 WHEREAS, A bipartisan effort has taken place at both the
10 Federal and State levels to pass legislation which would allow
11 American farmers to compete with foreign nations in industrial
12 hemp production; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States relied upon hemp production from
14 the time period of the Mayflower voyage to the War of 1812 and
15 through every world war; and

16 WHEREAS, Hemp production in Pennsylvania has a 260-year
17 history due to the favorable climate and soil; and

18 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp plants are cultivated for products
19 derived from the whole plant, including stalk, seeds, flower and
20 roots for products including fiber, food, oil and extracts; and

21 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp has thousands of applications and

1 can be refined into a variety of commercial products including
2 paper, textiles, biodegradable plastics, cannabinoids, paint,
3 insulation, biofuel, food and animal feed; and

4 WHEREAS, Each year, American companies are forced to import
5 millions of dollars' worth of industrial hemp seed and fiber
6 products annually from China, Canada, Europe and other
7 countries; and

8 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp has often been confused with
9 marijuana, as it is a member of the cannabis family; however, it
10 has no psychoactive effect due to a very low level of
11 tetrahydrocannabinol; and

12 WHEREAS, Chapter 7 of Title 3 of the Pennsylvania
13 Consolidated Statutes defines industrial hemp as the plant
14 Cannabis sativa L. and any part of the plant with less than
15 three-tenths of one percent tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as
16 THC; and

17 WHEREAS, Uncertainty about Federal laws inhibits investment
18 in the United States and Pennsylvania hemp industry by
19 agricultural producers, manufacturers, processors and other
20 businesses; and

21 WHEREAS, Section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the
22 Farm Bill of 2014 and the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2016,
23 authorized State industrial hemp agricultural pilot research
24 programs and the activities associated with such programs; and

25 WHEREAS, The Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth,
26 farmers, researchers and industry leaders recognized the
27 potential for opportunities in industrial hemp production and
28 products and in investment in Pennsylvania's industrial hemp
29 industry where this Commonwealth could become a national leader
30 to take advantage of the potential \$1 billion national market

1 for growing, producing, processing and selling industrial hemp
2 and industrial hemp products; and

3 WHEREAS, To this end, in 2016, the General Assembly and
4 Governor of the Commonwealth enacted Act 92 of 2016, which
5 established Chapter 7 of Title 3 of the Pennsylvania
6 Consolidated Statutes and authorized an industrial hemp research
7 pilot program to commence the initial research into such
8 potential opportunities; and

9 WHEREAS, In the fall of 2018, the Congress of the United
10 States is poised to pass the language from the Hemp Farming Act
11 of 2018, as contained in the 2018 Farm Bill, which removes
12 industrial hemp from the Schedule I Controlled Substance List
13 and legalizes commercial industrial hemp production in the
14 United States; and

15 WHEREAS, The Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth is
16 encouraged to immediately commence a study of this
17 Commonwealth's industrial hemp pilot program and other
18 industrial hemp pilot programs in other states and their
19 regulations to recommend any draft statutory or draft regulatory
20 language to the General Assembly to expedite the entry of this
21 Commonwealth into the commercial industrial hemp market upon
22 passage of the language from the Hemp Farming Act by the
23 Congress of the United States; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of
25 Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to pass the
26 language from the Hemp Farming Act of 2018, as contained in the
27 Farm Bill of 2018, removing industrial hemp from the Schedule I
28 Controlled Substance List and legalizing commercial industrial
29 hemp production in the United States; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1 urge the Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth to begin
2 a study of the industrial hemp research pilot programs
3 established under Act 92 of 2016 and similar research pilot
4 programs in other states and their regulations to prepare any
5 recommended draft legislation for submission to the General
6 Assembly and a framework for any draft regulatory provisions
7 that incorporate the following:

8 (1) The growth and cultivation of industrial hemp
9 produced in compliance with Federal law is an agricultural
10 crop.

11 (2) The producers of industrial hemp within this
12 Commonwealth have access to United States-supplied seed,
13 germplasm, rooted cuttings and other genetics.

14 (3) All industrial hemp products, including genetics,
15 that are produced in this Commonwealth shall be able to be
16 freely shipped across State lines into and out of this
17 Commonwealth.

18 (4) The Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth
19 prepares a process for institutions of higher education in
20 this Commonwealth to obtain approval to conduct industrial
21 hemp research that complies with existing law and is eligible
22 for Federal grant funding.

23 (5) The Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth
24 prepares educational programs and materials for the education
25 of youth and the public on the growth, cultivation and market
26 potential for industrial hemp;

27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
29 the Governor, the Secretary of Agriculture of the Commonwealth,
30 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each

1 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.