

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to industrial hemp programs; creating
 3 s. 570.0855, F.S.; providing legislative findings;
 4 providing definitions; authorizing specified state
 5 universities to engage in industrial hemp programs
 6 under certain conditions; specifying the purpose of
 7 the program; requiring universities to adopt specified
 8 rules, pursue private and federal funding, and submit
 9 a report to the Governor and Legislature; providing
 10 applicability; providing an effective date.

11
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
 14 Section 1. Section 570.0855, Florida Statutes, is created
 15 to read:

16 570.0855 Industrial hemp research programs.—

17 (1) The Legislature finds that:

18 (a) Industrial hemp may be a suitable crop for this state,
 19 and its production could contribute positively to the future of
 20 agriculture in the state.

21 (b) A viable industrial hemp program would create new
 22 business opportunities and jobs in communities throughout the
 23 state.

24 (c) As a food crop, industrial hemp seeds and oil produced
25 from the seeds have high nutritional value, including healthy
26 fats and proteins.

27 (d) As a fiber crop, industrial hemp can be used in the
28 manufacture of products such as clothing, building supplies, and
29 animal bedding.

30 (e) As a fuel crop, industrial hemp seeds can be processed
31 into biodiesel and stalks can be pelletized or flaked for
32 burning or processed for cellulosic ethanol.

33 (f) The production of industrial hemp can play an
34 important role in farm land management as part of a crop
35 rotation system.

36 (2) As used in this section, the term:

37 (a) "Industrial hemp" means the plant *Cannabis sativa L.*
38 and any part of such plant, whether growing or not, with a
39 delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3
40 percent on a dry-weight basis as defined under the Agricultural
41 Act of 2014, 7 U.S.C. s. 5940. A plant that meets the definition
42 of industrial hemp under this subsection is not cannabis as
43 defined in chapter 893.

44 (b) "Industrial hemp research project" means a project
45 associated with an industrial hemp program that includes any
46 aspect of research, cultivation, harvesting, processing,
47 testing, marketing, commercial sale, and use of approved

48 | industrial hemp agricultural, industrial, and commercial
49 | products.

50 | (3) Any land grant university in the state that has a
51 | college of agriculture, upon approval by its board of trustees,
52 | may engage in an industrial hemp program consistent with the
53 | Agricultural Act of 2014, 7 U.S.C. s. 5940. The purpose of the
54 | program is to conduct research projects related to the
55 | cultivation, harvesting, processing, testing, marketing, and
56 | commercial sale of industrial hemp, and to identify rural areas
57 | of the state that would benefit from the commercialization of
58 | industrial hemp.

59 | (4) (a) In implementing an industrial hemp program, the
60 | college or university shall adopt rules to ensure the proper
61 | operation and security of the program. At a minimum, the rules
62 | must:

63 | 1. Establish minimum security standards for the growing,
64 | handling, and processing of industrial hemp.

65 | 2. Designate the physical location of the industrial hemp
66 | project facility. Areas must be designated within the facility
67 | as general access or limited access. An area where industrial
68 | hemp is cultivated, processed, stored, or packaged, or where
69 | industrial hemp research is conducted, must be designated as
70 | limited access. Access to limited-access areas is restricted to
71 | authorized personnel and authorized visitors. All other areas of

72 the project facility may be designated as general access and
73 open to authorized visitors accompanied by authorized personnel.

74 3. Establish seed procurement and storage standards. At a
75 minimum, all seed must be certified by the university as legally
76 imported under Drug Enforcement Administration regulation 21
77 C.F.R. s. 1312.13, parts (a) and (b).

78 4. Establish testing processes of industrial hemp plants
79 to ensure that all samples comply with the chemical properties
80 defined in paragraph (2) (a).

81 5. Establish storage, packaging, and labeling requirements
82 for raw hemp material.

83 6. Facilitate coordination with state and local law
84 enforcement agencies to ensure the program complies with this
85 section and other state and federal laws.

86 7. Establish a seed-to-product testing program and
87 research protocols to ensure the proper chemical composition and
88 labeling of hemp material.

89 (b) To the fullest extent feasible, industrial hemp
90 projects should be implemented in rural agricultural areas of
91 the state where the potential for enhancing agricultural
92 economic development is high.

93 (c) An industrial hemp commercialization project may only
94 be conducted after an industrial hemp program has been in place
95 for 2 years. A university shall delay a industrial hemp
96 commercialization project if the university is not satisfied its

97 research establishes that industrial hemp does not pose a risk
98 as an invasive species or entomological risk to agriculture
99 industry in the state.

100 (5) To the fullest extent feasible, an industrial hemp
101 program shall be financed through private resources. All costs
102 incurred by an industrial hemp program shall be funded through
103 federal grants or private funding.

104 (6) Within 4 years after implementing an industrial hemp
105 program, the university shall submit a report to the Governor,
106 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
107 Representatives on the status of the program and any research
108 related to the cultivation, harvesting, processing, and uses of
109 industrial hemp, as well as identification of rural areas of the
110 state that would benefit from the commercialization of
111 industrial hemp and any recommendations for implementing such
112 commercialization.

113 (7) (a) This section does not prohibit any research on
114 cannabis pursuant to ss. 2 and 4, chapter 2016-123, Laws of
115 Florida, lawfully conducted before, on, or after the effective
116 date of this section.

117 (b) This section does not authorize the use of any
118 industrial hemp product for medical use. Any medical use of
119 industrial hemp is limited to and governed by s. 381.986.

120 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.