

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Appropriations

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BILL: SB 7102

INTRODUCER: Innovation, Industry, and Technology Committee

SUBJECT: Hemp

DATE: April 17, 2019

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
<u>Oxamendi</u>	<u>Imhof</u>		<b>IT Submitted as Committee Bill</b>
1. <u>Blizzard</u>	<u>Kynoch</u>	<u>AP</u>	<b>Pre-meeting</b>

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**I. Summary:**

SB 7102 authorizes the distribution and retail sale of hemp extract, which may not have a THC<sup>1</sup> concentration that exceeds 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. Before hemp extract may be distributed or sold, it must be analyzed and certified by an independent testing laboratory to confirm that the THC concentration does not exceed 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis. The bill provides package labeling requirements for hemp extract products and exempts hemp from the definition of the controlled substance “cannabis” in s. 893.02(3), F.S.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state revenues or expenditures.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Industrial Hemp**

Industrial hemp is a *Cannabis sativa* plant (cannabis) that has been cultivated for approximately 10,000 years as a fiber and grain crop. It is used for fiber, building materials, forages (animal feed), and pain relief as a topical oil.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the main active ingredient in cannabis and is responsible for most of the psychological effects of cannabis.

<sup>2</sup> See University of Florida, *UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project*, at: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/hemp/> (last visited Mar. 29, 2019).

## Cannabis

Cannabis is a Schedule I controlled substance.<sup>3</sup> It is a felony of the third degree<sup>4</sup> to sell, manufacture, or deliver, or possess with intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver, cannabis in Florida.<sup>5</sup>

As a controlled substance in ch. 893, F.S., “cannabis” is defined to mean:

...all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin. The term does not include “marijuana,” as defined in s. 381.986, if manufactured, possessed, sold, purchased, delivered, distributed, or dispensed, in conformance with s. 381.986, F.S., [the Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act of 2014].<sup>6</sup>

## Medical Marijuana

On November 4, 2016, Amendment 2 was adopted and codified at Article X, section 29 of the Florida Constitution. This section of the constitution became effective on January 3, 2017, and created several exemptions from criminal and civil liability for:

- Qualifying patients medically using marijuana in compliance with the amendment and their caregivers;
- Physicians, solely for issuing physician certifications with reasonable care and in compliance with the amendment; and
- Medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs) and their agents and employees for actions or conduct under the amendment and in compliance with rules promulgated by the Florida Department of Health.

Subsequently, the Legislature passed SB 8-A in Special Session A of 2017.<sup>7</sup> The bill revised the Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act of 2014<sup>8</sup> in s. 381.986, F.S., to implement Article X, section 29 of the Florida Constitution.

The term medical marijuana includes two distinct forms of the plant genus *Cannabis*:

- Marijuana without any limitation or restriction on the percentage of THC; and
- “Low-THC cannabis” with a limitation on the percentage of THC of 0.8 percent or less and that has more than 10 percent of cannabidiol weight for weight.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Section 893.03(1)(c)7., F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 775.082, F.S., provides that a felony of the third degree is punishable by a term of imprisonment not to exceed five years. Section 775.083, F.S., provides that a felony of the third degree is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

<sup>5</sup> Section 893.13(1)(a)2., F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 893.02(3), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Chapter 2017-232, Laws of Fla.

<sup>8</sup> Chapter 2014-157, Laws of Fla.

<sup>9</sup> See ss. 381.986(1)(e) and (f), F.S.

Cannabidiol (CBD) is a chemical compound, known as a cannabinoid, found in cannabis. CBD does not have the same psychoactivity as THC, i.e., it is not associated with a “high” or other mind-altering affects. Proponents of CBD use note the beneficial calming and anti-anxiety effects of the substance.<sup>10</sup>

The Coalition for Medical Marijuana Research and Education located at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc., is authorized by law to conduct medical marijuana research and education.<sup>11</sup>

An MMTC and a qualified patient or caregiver are specifically exempt from the criminal prohibition against the possession of cannabis.<sup>12</sup>

### **2014 Federal Farm Bill and State Industrial Hemp Pilot Programs**

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) defined industrial hemp and allowed state departments of agriculture or universities to grow and produce industrial hemp as part of research or pilot programs.<sup>13</sup> The federal law allows universities and state departments of agriculture to grow or cultivate industrial hemp if:

- The industrial hemp is grown or cultivated for purposes of research conducted under an agricultural pilot program or other agricultural or academic research; and
- The growing or cultivating of industrial hemp is allowed under the laws of the state in which such institution of higher education or state department of agriculture is located and such research occurs.<sup>14</sup>

The federal law defines “industrial hemp” to mean:

...the plant *Cannabis sativa L.* and any part of that plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.<sup>15</sup>

Section 1004.4473, F.S., authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department) to oversee the development of industrial hemp pilot projects for the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and any land grant university in the state that has a college of agriculture.<sup>16</sup> The purpose of the pilot projects is to cultivate, process, test, research, create, and market safe and effective commercial applications for industrial hemp in the agricultural sector

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<sup>10</sup> See Michael J Breus, *Despite What You May Think... CBD Is Not Weed* (Sept. 20, 2018), Psychology Today, at: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/sleep-newzzz/201809/despite-what-you-may-think-cbd-is-not-weed> (last visited Mar. 29, 2019).

<sup>11</sup> Section 1004.4351, F.S.

<sup>12</sup> See 381.986(14), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Agricultural Improvement Act of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-79, s.7606, 128 Stat. 912 (2014) (codified at 7 U.S.C. s. 5940).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> 7 U.S.C. s. 5940 (2018).

<sup>16</sup> See University of Florida, *About the UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Project*, at: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/hemp/about-the-project/> (last visited Mar. 29, 2019).

in this state. The department has adopted a rule addressing safety, compliance, and accountability and other concerns.<sup>17</sup>

Section 1004.4473, F.S., does not provide a specific exemption from the criminal prohibition against the possession of cannabis in s. 893.13(1)(a)2., F.S.

### **2018 Federal Farm Bill**

The 2018 Farm Bill legalized industrial hemp as an agricultural product by removing hemp's classification as a controlled substance.<sup>18</sup> The 2018 Farm Bill defines "hemp" to mean:

...the plant *Cannabis sativa L.* and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.<sup>19</sup>

The 2018 Farm Bill allows a state department of agriculture or an Indian tribe to submit a plan to the United States Secretary of Agriculture and apply for primary regulatory authority over the production of hemp in their state or tribal territory. A state or tribal plan must include:

- A procedure for tracking land upon which hemp will be produced;
- Testing methods for determining THC concentration levels of hemp;
- Methods for effective disposal of noncompliant products;
- Enforcement procedures;
- Inspection procedures; and
- Compliance and inspection procedures for hemp producers and to test hemp products, inspect hemp producers, and enforce the provisions of the state or tribal plan.<sup>20</sup>

### **Hemp Legislation in Other States**

At least 38 states considered legislation related to industrial hemp in 2018. These bills ranged from clarifying existing laws to establishing new licensing requirements and programs. Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, New Jersey, and Oklahoma enacted legislation in 2018 establishing hemp research and industrial hemp pilot programs.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Fla. Admin. Code R. 5B-57.013 (2018).

<sup>18</sup> Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-334, s. 12619, 132 Stat. 409 (2018) (codified at 21 U.S.C. 802(16)).

<sup>19</sup> Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-334, s. 10113, 132 Stat. 409 (2018) (codified at 7 U.S.C. s. 1639o).

<sup>20</sup> Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-334, s. 10113, 132 Stat. 409 (2018) (codified at 7 U.S.C. s. 1639p).

<sup>21</sup> See National Conference of State Legislatures, *State Industrial Hemp Statutes*, at: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/agriculture-and-rural-development/state-industrial-hemp-statutes.aspx> (last visited Mar. 29, 2019).

**CS/CS/SB 1020 (2019 Regular Session)**

CS/CS/SB 1020 authorizes the department to administer a state industrial hemp program to regulate the cultivation, distribution, and retail sale of hemp, including hemp extract.

CS/SB 1020 requires registration for participation in the state hemp program and authorizes the department to adopt rules, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, to administer the state hemp program. The rules must include sampling and testing measures and nonrefundable fees for administering the program. Additionally, CS/CS/SB 1020 requires the department to include information for administering the state hemp program in its legislative budget request for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill creates s. 581.218, F.S., to authorize the distribution and retail sale of hemp extract.

The bill defines hemp extract to mean a no-THC or low-THC substance or compound that:

- Is derived from or contains any part of the plant *Cannabis sativa L.* which meets the definition of industrial hemp under s. 1004.4473, F.S.;
- Contains a total THC concentration, including immediate precursors, that does not exceed 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis; and
- Does not contain other controlled substances.

Hemp extract may be distributed and sold, if it is a product of a batch that is:

- Analyzed and certified by an independent testing laboratory confirming the batch as having a THC concentration that does not exceed 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis; and
- Does not contain contaminants unsafe for human consumption.

The packaging for the hemp extract must include:

- A scannable barcode linked to the certificate of analysis;
- The batch number;
- The Internet address of a website where batch information may be obtained;
- The expiration date;
- The number of milligrams of no-THC or low-THC hemp extract; and
- A statement that the product contains a total THC concentration, including immediate precursors,<sup>22</sup> which does not exceed 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis.

The bill amends the definition of the controlled substance “cannabis” in s. 893.02(3), F.S., to exempt hemp, as defined in s. 581.218, F.S., and industrial hemp, as defined in s. 1004.4473, F.S., from the definition.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

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<sup>22</sup> A "precursor" is an inactive, chemical substance that is converted (or transformed) into an active substance, such as an enzyme, vitamin, or hormone. See Medicinenet.com, *Medical Definition of Precursor*, at: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=14105> (last visited Mar. 29, 2019).

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

## A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

## B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

## C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

## D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

## E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

Some Florida farmers may incur additional costs related to the requirement that hemp extract must be certified by an independent testing laboratory to confirm the THC concentration before it is distributed or sold.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill does not provide administrative duties to the department; therefore, the bill has no impact on state funds.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill amends section 893.02 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill creates section 581.218 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. **Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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