Agricultural Commodities

Proposed law creates the LA Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program. The program is expected to cost $0 in the first year and subsequent years.

EXPERIMENTAL EXPLANATION

Proposed law is anticipated to result in a minimal increase in state expenditures associated with travel reimbursements. The proposed law creates the LA Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program as well as the LA Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Advisory Board within the LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF).

The 15 members of the board shall serve without compensation; however, board members not domiciled in Baton Rouge may receive travel and other reimbursements as permitted in the official state Policy and Procedure Manual (PPM49) for attending board meetings. This fiscal note assumes that LDAF will provide administrative support to the advisory board, which shall meet at least twice a year, including submitting an annual report to both the House and Senate Agriculture committees. For informational purposes, the current mileage reimbursement rate is $0.56 per mile not to exceed a maximum of 99 miles per round trip and/or day. While there may be costs associated with travel reimbursement and administrative support of the advisory board provided by LDAF, they are expected to be minimal and absorbed within the department’s existing operating budget.

Also, under the proposed law, the Commissioner of Agriculture may use any funds available (gifts, contributions, donations, state appropriations, and federal grants) to develop educational materials and programs about industrial hemp as well as contract for industrial hemp research. To the extent that funding is available, expenditures within LDAF is anticipated to increase by an indeterminable amount as educational materials are disseminated and contracts to conduct industrial hemp research are executed.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.