
DIGEST

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HB 491 Original

2020 Regular Session

Echols

Abstract: Provides authorizations relative to research and testing by certain state universities on state-regulated industrial hemp crops and products, cannabidiol (CBD) products, and marijuana for therapeutic use.

Present law (R.S. 3:1461 et seq.) authorizes the cultivation, processing, and transportation of industrial hemp in accordance with rules and regulations of the La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Present law authorizes the La. State University Agricultural Center (LSU Ag Center) and the Southern University Agricultural Center (SU Ag Center) to cultivate, handle, and process industrial hemp and industrial hemp seeds for research and development of new varieties.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the University of La. at Monroe to those institutions that can conduct industrial hemp research.

Present law exempts the LSU Ag Center and the SU Ag Center from licensure requirements and criminal penalties of present law relative to industrial hemp seed producers, growers, and contract carriers when those institutions perform industrial hemp research as authorized by present law.

Proposed law retains present law and extends the exemption from licensure requirements and criminal penalties to the University of La. at Monroe when that institution performs industrial hemp research as authorized by proposed law.

Present law requires the La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) to test for the THC levels of industrial hemp crop prior to harvest and authorizes LDAF to test for THC levels of industrial hemp crops and products after harvest.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes LDAF to contract with the following institutions for any testing of industrial hemp crop and industrial hemp products deemed necessary by the commissioner of agriculture:

- (1) The LSU Ag Center.
- (2) The SU Ag Center.
- (3) The University of La. at Monroe.

Present law (R.S. 3:1482) provides conditions and prohibitions relative to the processing and sale

of cannabidiol (CBD) products. Provides for functions of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) with respect to registration and testing of CBD products.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes LDH to contract with the following institutions for any independent testing of CBD products deemed necessary by the secretary of the department:

- (1) The LSU Ag Center.
- (2) The SU Ag Center.
- (3) The University of La. at Monroe.

Present law (R.S. 40:1046) provides that only the LSU Ag Center and the SU Ag Center may be licensed by the state to produce marijuana for therapeutic use. Authorizes each institution to conduct research on marijuana for therapeutic use if it is licensed as a production facility.

Proposed law retains present law and adds authorization for the University of La. at Monroe to conduct research on marijuana for therapeutic use.

(Amends R.S. 3:1465(F), 1468(A), 1469(A), 1471(C), and 1482(D) and (E) and R.S. 40:1046(H)(2)(c))