AN ACT

To enact Part VII of Chapter 10-A of Title 3 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 3:1491 through 1496 and R.S. 36:629(L)(4), relative to the creation of the Louisiana Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program; to create the Louisiana Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Advisory Board; to provide for the composition, powers, duties, and functions of the board; to authorize the commissioner of agriculture and forestry to adopt rules and accept certain funds; to provide for the use of funds; to provide for definitions; to provide for transfer of the board to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Part VII of Chapter 10-A of Title 3 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 3:1491 through 1496, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

PART VII. LOUISIANA INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROMOTION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

§1491. Name and purpose

A. The name of the program created and organized by this Part shall be the Louisiana Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program.

B. The purpose of the program is to support the growth and development of the industrial hemp industry in Louisiana by enhancing research, education, promotion, facilities, and industrial hemp related activities throughout the state.

§1492. Definitions

As used in this Part:

(1) "Board" means the Louisiana Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Advisory Board.
(2) "Commissioner" means the Louisiana commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

(3) "Industrial hemp" means the same as previously defined in this Chapter.

(4) "Industrial hemp educational program" means any event focused on improving a participant's understanding of the industrial hemp industry.

(5) "Industrial hemp facility" means any facility used to produce or process industrial hemp.

(6) "Industrial hemp industry member" means any person with an interest and background in the requirements of producing, handling, processing, or selling industrial hemp or products produced from industrial hemp.

(7) "Industrial hemp research" means any scholarly activity conducted to collect scientific data utilizing experimental design as authorized under this Chapter.

(8) "Program" means the Louisiana Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program.

(9) "Promotion of the industrial hemp industry" means the development of a comprehensive marketing plan for the industrial hemp industry, which may include a website, social media, and an advertising program.

§1493. Louisiana Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Advisory Board; creation and organization

A. The Louisiana Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Advisory Board is hereby created within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The board shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge.

B. The board shall consist of fifteen members as follows:

(1) One member who is engaged in the production of industrial hemp or industrial hemp seed appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

(2) One member appointed by the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.

(3) One member appointed by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.
(4) One member appointed by the speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

(5) One member appointed by the president of the Louisiana Senate.

(6) One member appointed by the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development.

(7) One member appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development.

(8) One member appointed by the commissioner who is a licensed grower of industrial hemp.

(9) One member appointed by the commissioner who is a licensed processor of industrial hemp.

(10) One member appointed by the commissioner who is a consumer of industrial hemp.

(11) One member appointed by the commissioner who is a representative of the Louisiana industrial hemp industry.

(12) One member appointed by the Louisiana Black Farmers Cannabis and Hemp Association.

(13) One member appointed by the Morehouse Parish Black Farmers and Landowners Association.

(14) One member appointed by the Louisiana Cannabis Association.

(15) One member appointed by the Gulf South Hemp Association.

C. The commissioner, or his designee, shall serve as an ex officio member in an advisory capacity only.

D. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

E. Appointments to the board shall be made no later than September 1, 2022. Each appointing authority shall notify the commissioner of the appointment. The board should be representative of the state's population by race and gender to ensure diversity.

F. A vacancy in the office of a member shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
G. A majority of the voting members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the board shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board present and voting.

H. Members of the board shall receive no compensation.

I. The board shall meet at least twice a year and may meet at other times on the call of the chairman or any four members.

J. The board, by a vote of a majority of the members, may expel a member for good cause shown. Good cause shall include but shall not be limited to three consecutive unexcused absences. The expulsion of a member creates a vacancy in the office of the expelled member.

K. The board shall meet and organize as soon as practicable after appointment of the members, and shall elect a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary-treasurer from the membership of the board, whose duties shall be those customarily exercised by such officers or specifically designated by the board. Officers shall serve a one-year term.

§1494. Powers and duties

A. The board shall:

(1) Advise the commissioner on the development and maintenance of the Louisiana Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program.

(2) Maintain a permanent record of its proceedings.

(3) Submit an annual report of its activities to the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development by January thirty-first of each year.

B. The board may:

(1) Provide information to governmental entities upon request on subjects of concern to the industrial hemp industry and collaborate with the state or federal government on the development and administration of the program.

(2) Cooperate with any local, state, regional, or national organization or agency engaged in activities consistent with the objectives of the program.
(3) Make recommendations to the House and Senate committees on agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and rural development on legislation relative to the regulation of industrial hemp.

C. The commissioner may:

(1) Adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to administer the program. All rules and regulations shall be adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

(2) Enter into contracts or other agreements to accomplish any purpose authorized by this Part, including advertising, education, marketing, promotion, research, or services.

§1495. Funding

To achieve the purposes of this Part, the commissioner may accept and expend monies from any source, including gifts, contributions, donations, state appropriations, and federal grants and may accept and use services from individuals, corporations, and governmental entities.

§1496. Use of funds

Funds made available to the commissioner shall be expended to effectuate the purposes of this Part including but not limited to the following uses:

(1) To attract additional business associated with the industrial hemp industry to Louisiana including processors.

(2) To develop and promote Louisiana industrial hemp brands or marketing campaigns.

(3) To aid in the development of a coordinated research plan designed to develop higher quality industrial hemp seeds and plants best suited for cultivation within the state, new and improved uses for industrial hemp, and best management practices.

(4) To develop educational programs and disseminate educational materials about industrial hemp.

(5) To support the enhancement and maintenance of public-use industrial hemp facilities, specifically those used for the purposes of promotion and research.
(6) To promote activities, facilities, events, and the needs of the Louisiana industrial hemp industry.

(7) To contract for scientific research with accredited postsecondary education institutions, or similar educational institutions, and industrial hemp licensees authorized to conduct industrial hemp research under this Chapter that will assist in carrying out the purposes of the program, including industrial hemp best management practices.

Section 2. R.S. 36:629(L)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§629. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry

L. The following agencies are transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and shall perform and exercise their powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as provided by law:

(4) The Louisiana Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program (R.S. 3:1491 et seq.).

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.