

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to industrial hemp programs; creating  
 3           s. 1004.4473, F.S.; authorizing specified state  
 4           universities to engage in certain research related to  
 5           industrial hemp under certain conditions; creating an  
 6           industrial hemp program upon approval by the  
 7           respective university's board of trustees; providing  
 8           the purpose of the program; providing definitions;  
 9           requiring the university to establish an Office of  
 10          Hemp Research Compliance to manage the program and  
 11          enforce rules regulating the program; requiring the  
 12          university to adopt certain rules; requiring a report  
 13          to the Governor and Legislature; providing an  
 14          effective date.

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 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18           Section 1. Section 1004.4473, Florida Statutes, is created  
 19 to read:

20           1004.4473 Industrial hemp programs.-

21           (1) The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the  
 22 University of Florida and the Florida Agricultural and  
 23 Mechanical University, upon approval by their respective boards  
 24 of trustees, may engage in industrial hemp research in  
 25 accordance with this section and all other state and federal  
 26 laws.

27 (2) Subject to an affirmative vote of the board of  
28 trustees of a university specified in subsection (1), there is  
29 created an industrial hemp program at that university. The  
30 purpose of the program is to conduct and disseminate research  
31 related to the cultivation, harvesting, processing, and uses of  
32 industrial hemp.

33 (3) As used in this section, the term:

34 (a) "Hemp material" means any substance containing hemp  
35 stems, leaves, fibers, seeds, extracts, or oil, or any other  
36 substance derived or harvested from any species of the cannabis  
37 plant.

38 (b) "Qualified program personnel" means persons certified  
39 by the Office of Hemp Research Compliance to work in an  
40 industrial hemp program. At a minimum, a person applying for  
41 certification must be 18 years of age or older, pass a criminal  
42 background check, and be either employed by or enrolled in the  
43 university.

44 (4) In implementing the program, the university shall  
45 establish an Office of Hemp Research Compliance. The office  
46 shall manage the program and enforce rules regulating the  
47 program. The university shall also adopt rules to ensure the  
48 proper operation and security of the program. At a minimum, the  
49 rules must:

50 (a) Designate the physical location of the industrial hemp  
51 research facility. Areas must be designated within the facility  
52 as general access or limited access. An area where industrial

53 hemp is cultivated, processed, stored, or packaged, or where  
54 industrial hemp research is conducted, must be designated as  
55 limited access. Access to limited-access areas is restricted to  
56 qualified program personnel and authorized visitors accompanied  
57 at all times by qualified program personnel. All other areas of  
58 the facility may be designated as general access and open to  
59 authorized visitors accompanied or not accompanied by qualified  
60 program personnel.

61 (b) Establish minimum security standards for the handling  
62 of industrial hemp, including:

63 1. Processing and disposal requirements for any waste  
64 containing hemp material.

65 2. Storage, testing, research, and transportation  
66 requirements for hemp material.

67 3. Packaging, labeling, and tracking requirements for hemp  
68 material.

69 (c) Facilitate coordination with state and local law  
70 enforcement agencies to ensure the program complies with this  
71 section and other state and federal laws.

72 (d) Establish a testing program and protocols to ensure  
73 the proper labeling of hemp material.

74 (5) If the board of trustees of a university specified in  
75 subsection (1) affirmatively votes to create an industrial hemp  
76 program, the university shall submit a report to the Governor,  
77 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
78 Representatives on the status of the program and research

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79 related to the cultivation, harvesting, processing, and uses of  
80 industrial hemp. The report shall be prepared and submitted  
81 within 2 years after the program's creation.

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