

By Senator Montford

3-01478-16

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Agricultural and
3 Mechanical University Industrial Hemp Program;
4 creating s. 1004.4473, F.S.; authorizing the Florida
5 Agricultural and Mechanical University to engage in
6 certain research related to industrial hemp under
7 certain conditions; creating the Industrial Hemp
8 Program upon approval by the Board of Trustees of the
9 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University;
10 defining terms; providing the purpose of the program;
11 requiring the university to establish an Office of
12 Hemp Research Compliance to manage the program and
13 enforce rules regulating the program; requiring the
14 university to adopt certain rules; providing an
15 effective date.

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

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

21 1004.4473 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
22 Industrial Hemp Program.—

23 (1) The Legislature authorizes the Florida Agricultural and
24 Mechanical University, upon approval by its board of trustees,
25 to engage in industrial hemp research in accordance with this
26 section and all other state and federal law.

27 (2) Subject to an affirmative vote of the Board of Trustees
28 of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University as
29 specified in subsection (1), there is created the Industrial
30 Hemp Program at the university. The purpose of this program is
31 to conduct and disseminate research related to the cultivating,
32 harvesting, processing, and uses of industrial hemp.

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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 the
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 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

44 (4) In implementing the program, the university shall
45 establish the 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 minimum, these
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
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 to authorized visitors, who must
57 be accompanied at all times by qualified program personnel. All
58 other areas of the facility may be designated as general access
59 and open to authorized visitors, with or without accompaniment
60 by qualified program personnel.

61 (b) Establish minimum security standards for the handling

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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 materials.

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

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

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

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