

1 AN ACT relating to hemp and declaring an emergency.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 250.355 is amended to read as follows:

4 **(1)** The director, or the director's designee, shall receive samples and test ~~industrial~~  
5 ~~hemp~~ plants, plant parts, and materials grown or located within the Commonwealth  
6 in order to determine whether the ~~industrial~~ hemp plants, plant parts, and materials  
7 are in compliance with the provisions of KRS 260.850 to 260.869 and the  
8 administrative regulations promulgated thereunder.

9 **(2)** ***The director, or the director's designee, shall perform testing services as the***  
10 ***primary laboratory for delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol as required by the***  
11 ***department. The department may contract with other qualified laboratories to***  
12 ***perform delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol testing services when required.***

13 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 260.850 TO 260.869 IS CREATED  
14 TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

15 **(1)** ***As used in this section, "location" means a single contiguous parcel of land and***  
16 ***any buildings situated thereon.***

17 **(2)** ***No person shall move or transport, or aid or abet another person in moving or***  
18 ***transporting, any hemp extract material having a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol***  
19 ***concentration in excess of three-tenths of one percent (0.3%):***

20 **(a)** ***From any location outside the Commonwealth to any location within the***  
21 ***Commonwealth;***

22 **(b)** ***From any location inside the Commonwealth to any location outside the***  
23 ***Commonwealth; or***

24 **(c)** ***Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, from any location inside***  
25 ***the Commonwealth to any other location inside the Commonwealth.***

26 **(3)** ***A licensed processor, or a person acting as a representative of a licensed***  
27 ***processor, may move or transport hemp extract material having a delta-9***

1 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration in excess of three-tenths of one percent  
 2 (0.3%) from one (1) licensed processing location in the Commonwealth to  
 3 another licensed processing location in the Commonwealth, provided that:

4 (a) The hemp extract material shall move directly from one (1) licensed  
 5 processing location to another; and

6 (b) The licensed processor shall provide written notice to the department of the  
 7 planned movement at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance to include the  
 8 following information:

9 1. The date of the movement;

10 2. The address of the origin;

11 3. The address of the destination; and

12 4. Other information required by the department.

13 ➔Section 3. KRS 260.850 is amended to read as follows:

14 As used in KRS 260.850 to 260.869:

15 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of  
 16 Agriculture;

17 (2) "Cultivating" means planting, growing, and harvesting a plant or crop;

18 (3) "Department" means the Kentucky Department of Agriculture;

19 (4) "Handling" means possessing or storing ~~industrial~~ hemp for any period of time on  
 20 premises owned, operated, or controlled by a person licensed to cultivate or process  
 21 ~~industrial~~ hemp. "Handling" also includes possessing or storing ~~industrial~~ hemp  
 22 in a vehicle for any period of time other than during its actual transport from the  
 23 premises of a licensed person to cultivate or process ~~industrial~~ hemp to the  
 24 premises of another licensed person;

25 (5) "Hemp" or "industrial hemp" means the plant Cannabis sativa L. and any part of  
 26 that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids,  
 27 isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9

1 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than three-tenths of one percent  
2 (0.3%) on a dry weight basis;

3 (6) **"Hemp products" or** "industrial hemp products" means products derived from, or  
4 made by, processing ~~industrial~~ hemp plants or plant parts;

5 (7) "Licensee" means an individual or business entity possessing a license issued by the  
6 department under the authority of this chapter to grow, handle, cultivate, process, or  
7 market ~~industrial~~ hemp or ~~industrial~~ hemp products;

8 (8) "Marketing" means promoting or selling a product within the Commonwealth, in  
9 another state, or outside of the United States. "Marketing" includes efforts to  
10 advertise and gather information about the needs or preferences of potential  
11 consumers or suppliers;

12 (9) "Processing" means converting an agricultural commodity into a marketable form;

13 **and**

14 (10) ~~["Research pilot program" means a pilot program conducted by the department in  
15 collaboration with one (1) or more licensees or universities to study methods of  
16 cultivating, processing, or marketing industrial hemp under the authority of 7  
17 U.S.C. sec. 5940 as it currently exists or as it may be subsequently amended; and~~

18 ~~(11)~~ "University" means an accredited institution of higher education located in the  
19 Commonwealth.

20 ➔Section 4. KRS 260.852 is amended to read as follows:

21 It is the declared policy of the Commonwealth that ~~industrial~~ hemp is a viable  
22 agricultural crop in the Commonwealth. The purposes of KRS 260.850 to 260.869 are to:

23 (1) Promote the research and study methods of cultivating, processing, and marketing  
24 ~~industrial~~ hemp;

25 (2) Promote the expansion of the Commonwealth's ~~industrial~~ hemp industry to the  
26 maximum extent permitted by federal law **by**, ~~in anticipation of a change in federal  
27 law~~ allowing citizens of the Commonwealth to cultivate, handle, or process

1       ~~industrial]hemp and [industrial]hemp products for commercial purposes[without~~  
2       ~~participating in research pilot programs]; and~~

3       (3) Move the Commonwealth and its citizens to the forefront of the ~~[industrial]hemp~~  
4       industry.

5       ➔Section 5. KRS 260.858 is amended to read as follows:

6       (1) ~~[The purpose of the research pilot program authorized by this chapter is to enable~~  
7       ~~the department, and its licensees and affiliated universities, to study methods of~~  
8       ~~cultivating, processing, or marketing industrial hemp.~~

9       ~~(2)~~ Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, it is lawful for a  
10       licensee, or his or her agent, to cultivate, handle, or process ~~[industrial]hemp or~~  
11       ~~[industrial]hemp products in the Commonwealth.~~

12       ~~(2)~~~~(3)~~ It is unlawful for a person who does not hold a license issued by the  
13       department, or who is not an agent of a licensee, to cultivate, handle, process, or  
14       market living ~~[industrial]hemp plants or viable seeds, leaf materials, or floral~~  
15       materials derived from ~~[industrial]hemp~~. Penalties for persons who cultivate,  
16       handle, process, or market living ~~[industrial]hemp plants or viable seeds, leaf~~  
17       materials, or floral materials derived from ~~[industrial]hemp~~ without a license are  
18       the same as those penalties that are applicable to persons who violate KRS Chapter  
19       218A, relating to marijuana.

20       **(3) It is unlawful for a person who does not hold a license issued by the department,**  
21       **or who is not an agent of a licensee, to possess hemp extract material having a**  
22       **delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration in excess of three-tenths of one**  
23       **percent (0.3%). Penalties for persons who possess such hemp extract materials**  
24       **without a license are the same as those penalties that are applicable to persons**  
25       **who violate KRS Chapter 218A, relating to marijuana.**

26       (4) Nothing in this chapter authorizes any person to violate any federal or state law or  
27       regulation.

1           ➔Section 6. KRS 260.860 is amended to read as follows:

- 2       (1) The ~~Industrial~~Hemp Advisory Board is created for the purpose of providing  
3       advice and expertise as may be needed by ~~a university or~~the department with  
4       respect to plans, policies, and procedures applicable to the administration of its  
5       respective ~~industrial~~hemp ~~research pilot~~program~~programs~~.
- 6       (2) The ~~Industrial~~Hemp Advisory Board shall be attached to the department for  
7       administrative purposes.
- 8       (3) The ~~Industrial~~Hemp Advisory Board shall be composed of the following  
9       members:
- 10       (a) The Commissioner of the department or the Commissioner's designee;
- 11       (b) The executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy or the  
12       executive director's designee;
- 13       (c) The dean of the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and  
14       Environment or the dean's designee;
- 15       (d) The commissioner of the Department of Kentucky State Police or the  
16       commissioner's designee;
- 17       (e) The president of the Kentucky Sheriff's Association or the president's  
18       designee;
- 19       (f) The president of the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police or the  
20       president's designee; and
- 21       (g) Ten (10) at-large members designated by the Commissioner.
- 22       (4) The Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee shall serve as chair.
- 23       (5) A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum.
- 24       (6) The board shall meet at least one (1) time annually at the call of the chair.
- 25       (7) In making the initial appointments of the board, the Commissioner shall stagger the  
26       terms of the board members. Thereafter, members shall be appointed to a term of  
27       four (4) years and shall serve until their successors are duly appointed and qualified.

1 (8) Board members shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed, payable  
 2 from the industrial hemp research pilot program fund, for any actual travel expense  
 3 incurred while attending meetings of the board.

4 ➔Section 7. KRS 260.862 is amended to read as follows:

5 (1) In addition to any other powers vested in it by law, the department shall have the  
 6 authority and power to promulgate administrative regulations to:

7 (a) ~~Prescribe rules for any industrial hemp pilot program;~~

8 ~~(b) Conduct one (1) or more industrial hemp research pilot programs;~~

9 ~~(c) License persons who wish to cultivate, handle, process, or market~~  
 10 ~~participate in an industrial hemp research pilot program by cultivating,~~  
 11 ~~handling, processing, or marketing industrial hemp;~~

12 ~~(b)(d)~~ Prescribe rules for a university's participation in, or affiliation with, any  
 13 ~~industrial hemp research pilot program;~~

14 ~~(c)(e)~~ Prescribe sampling and testing procedures to ensure that ~~industrial~~  
 15 ~~hemp and industrial hemp products cultivated, handled, processed, or~~  
 16 ~~marketed under the authority of this section do not exceed the concentration~~  
 17 ~~levels defined in federal law [7 U.S.C. sec. 5940] as it currently exists or as it~~  
 18 ~~may be subsequently amended;~~

19 ~~(d)(f)~~ Define classes or categories of ~~industrial hemp~~ products that are  
 20 eligible for sale, transfer, or distribution to members of the public; and

21 ~~(e)(g)~~ Establish a schedule of nonrefundable fees for applicants and  
 22 licensees ~~administering any industrial hemp research pilot program].~~

23 (2) (a) No person shall cultivate, handle, process, or market ~~industrial hemp~~ in the  
 24 Commonwealth unless the person holds ~~a~~ an industrial hemp license issued  
 25 by the department.

26 (b) Any person seeking to cultivate ~~industrial hemp~~ shall provide to the  
 27 department the legal description and global positioning coordinates sufficient

1 for locating the fields or greenhouses to be used to grow ~~industrial~~ hemp.

2 (c) Any person seeking to cultivate or process ~~industrial~~ hemp shall provide to  
3 the department prior written consent allowing representatives of the  
4 department, the Department of Kentucky State Police, and other state and  
5 local law enforcement agencies to enter onto all premises where ~~industrial~~  
6 hemp is cultivated, processed, or stored for the purpose of conducting  
7 physical inspections or ensuring compliance with the requirements of KRS  
8 260.850 to 260.869 and administrative regulations promulgated by the  
9 department.

10 (d) An applicant for a license issued by the department shall submit to and pay for  
11 an annual criminal background check conducted by the Department of  
12 Kentucky State Police or another state or federal law enforcement agency or  
13 another entity selected by the department.

14 (e) No person who has been convicted of any felony or any drug-related  
15 misdemeanor or violation in the previous ten (10) years from the date of  
16 application shall be eligible to obtain a license, provided, however, that:—

17 1. A person who was growing hemp lawfully with a license, registration,  
18 or authorization under a pilot program authorized by Section 7606 of  
19 the Agricultural Act of 2014, 7 U.S.C. sec. 5940, shall be eligible to  
20 obtain a license to grow hemp; and

21 2. A person who was lawfully growing hemp under Section 7606 of the  
22 Agricultural Act of 2014 before December 20, 2018, and was convicted  
23 prior to December 20, 2018, shall be eligible to obtain a license to  
24 grow hemp.

25 ➔Section 8. KRS 260.864 is amended to read as follows:

26 (1) The department may temporarily suspend a license up to sixty (60) days if the  
27 licensee is alleged to have:

- 1 (a) Violated any provision of KRS 260.850 to 260.869 or an administrative  
2 regulation promulgated under the authority of KRS 260.850 to 260.869;
- 3 (b) Made any false statement to the department or its representatives;
- 4 (c) Pled guilty to, or been convicted of, any felony or drug-related misdemeanor  
5 or violation;
- 6 (d) Failed to comply with only those instructions agreed upon in the contract  
7 signed by the licensee at the time the ~~industrial~~ hemp license was issued; or
- 8 (e) Failed to comply with an order from a representative of the department,  
9 representative of the Department of Kentucky State Police, or any law  
10 enforcement officer.
- 11 (2) The department may temporarily suspend a license up to sixty (60) days without  
12 giving the licensee advance notice of the charge against him or her or an  
13 opportunity to be heard.
- 14 (3) The department shall not permanently revoke a license until the department has  
15 notified the licensee of the charge against him or her and given the licensee an  
16 opportunity for a hearing before a three (3) person panel whose members have been  
17 designated by the Commissioner. The three (3) person panel shall include:
- 18 (a) Two (2) members who are employees of the department; and
- 19 (b) One (1) member who is not an employee of the department.
- 20 (4) The department may permanently revoke a license if the licensee admits, or is found  
21 in a hearing, to have:
- 22 (a) Violated any provision of KRS 260.850 to 260.869 or an administrative  
23 regulation promulgated under the authority of KRS 260.850 to 260.869;
- 24 (b) Made any false statement to the department or its representative;
- 25 (c) Pled guilty to, or been convicted of, any felony or drug-related misdemeanor  
26 or violation; or
- 27 (d) Failed to comply with any instruction or order from the department, a



1 representative of the Department of Kentucky State Police, or any law  
2 enforcement officer.

3 (5) The department may impose a monetary civil penalty, not to exceed two thousand  
4 five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation, on any person who violates KRS  
5 260.850 to 260.869 or an administrative regulation promulgated under the authority  
6 of KRS 260.850 to 260.869.

7 (6) The department shall not impose a monetary civil penalty against a person alleged  
8 to have violated KRS 260.850 to 260.869, or an administrative regulation  
9 promulgated under the authority of KRS 260.850 to 260.869, until the department  
10 has notified the person of the charge against him or her and given the person the  
11 opportunity for a hearing before the three (3) person panel.

12 ➔Section 9. KRS 260.866 is amended to read as follows:

13 (1) The ~~industrial~~hemp ~~research pilot~~program fund is hereby created as a separate  
14 trust fund in the State Treasury. The fund shall consist of amounts received from  
15 appropriations, and any other proceeds from gifts, grants, federal funds, application  
16 fees, or license fees provided by KRS 260.862, civil penalties as provided by KRS  
17 260.864, and any other funds, both public and private, made available for purposes  
18 of KRS 260.850 to 260.869.

19 (2) The ~~industrial~~hemp ~~research pilot~~program fund shall be administered by the  
20 department.

21 (3) Amounts deposited in the ~~industrial~~hemp ~~research pilot~~program fund shall be  
22 used for the costs of personnel, program administration, testing, actual travel  
23 expenses of the advisory board established under KRS 260.860, and any other costs  
24 incurred while conducting the ~~industrial~~hemp ~~research pilot~~programs under  
25 KRS 260.850 to 260.869.

26 (4) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, the ~~industrial~~hemp ~~research pilot~~program fund  
27 amounts not expended at the close of a fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried

1 forward into the next fiscal year.

2 (5) Any interest earnings of the ~~industrial hemp research pilot~~ program fund shall  
3 become part of the fund and shall not lapse.

4 (6) Moneys in the fund are hereby appropriated for the purposes set forth in this section  
5 and shall not be appropriated or transferred by the General Assembly for any other  
6 purposes ~~[ unless the industrial hemp research pilot program is discontinued by the~~  
7 ~~Commissioner as provided by KRS 260.867. If the program is discontinued,~~  
8 ~~moneys remaining in the fund shall lapse to the general fund no later than one (1)~~  
9 ~~year after notice of the program discontinuation, and the fund shall be closed].~~

10 ➔Section 10. The following KRS section is repealed:

11 260.867 Discontinuation of industrial hemp research pilot program -- Conditions --  
12 Notice.

13 ➔Section 11. Whereas in order for the Commonwealth to be in compliance with  
14 recent guidelines issued by the United States Department of Agriculture relating to hemp  
15 and hemp products, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its  
16 passage and approval by the Governor or upon it otherwise becoming a law.