

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Amend the State's Hemp Laws

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §2231, as amended by PL 2019, c. 12, Pt. B, §1, is further amended to read:

§ 2231.Hemp

1. Definition. ~~As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "hemp" means the plant Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis and that is grown or possessed by a licensed grower in compliance with this chapter. "Hemp" includes agricultural commodities and products derived from hemp and topical or ingestible consumer products, including food, food additives and food products derived from hemp. "Hemp" does not include marijuana for medical use pursuant to Title 22, chapter 558-C or adult use marijuana pursuant to Title 28-B, chapter 1. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "certified seed source" means a source of hemp seeds that are certified by a 3rd party as producing hemp having a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis.~~

1-A. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Certified seed source" means a source of hemp seeds that are certified by a 3rd party as producing hemp having a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis.

B. "Clone" means a hemp plant produced using any part of another hemp plant other than the seeds of that hemp plant.

C. "Hemp" means the plant Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis and that is grown or possessed by a licensed grower in compliance with this chapter. "Hemp" includes agricultural commodities and products derived from hemp and topical or ingestible consumer products, including food, food additives and food products derived from hemp. "Hemp" does not include marijuana for medical use pursuant to Title 22, chapter 558-C or adult use marijuana pursuant to Title 28-B, chapter 1.

D. "Indoor square footage" means the indoor land area within a building, enclosed structure, greenhouse, high tunnel structure or row cover that is dedicated to growing hemp on a site or field.

2. Growing permitted. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may plant, grow, harvest, possess, process, sell and buy hemp if that person holds a license issued pursuant to subsection 4, except that a person may plant and grow up to 3 hemp plants on no more than one acre of land area or indoor square footage and harvest, possess and process that hemp for personal use without a license. A person licensed pursuant to subsection 4 may plant, grow and harvest only hemp that is grown from seeds saved by the person as provided in paragraph A, acquired from a certified seed source, grown from a clone that is produced from seeds acquired from a certified seed source or propagated from tissue cultures that are removed from live plants grown from seeds acquired from a certified seed source. A person licensed pursuant to subsection 4 may acquire hemp seeds directly from a certified seed source or from a hemp seed distributor licensed in this State distributing hemp seeds pursuant to subsection 2-A.

A. A person who holds a license issued pursuant to subsection 4 may save seeds from hemp plants that the person has grown and harvested and, after having ensured through testing by an independent 3d-party tester that the plants that will grow from the seeds will meet the definition of hemp, may use those seeds for breeding and planting hemp

B. A person who holds a license issued pursuant to subsection 4, within 14 days after planting hemp seeds or clones, shall provide to the commissioner a listing of the varieties of seeds or clones planted and a statement that the seeds or clones meet the definition of hemp. This paragraph may not be interpreted to require providing the information required by this paragraph to the commissioner in advance of an application to grow hemp.

2-A. Seed distribution. The commissioner may issue a license for a hemp seed distributor if the hemp seeds distributed by the hemp seed distributor are from a certified seed source. The commissioner may issue a license under this subsection to a holder of a seed labeling license pursuant to section 1044-A.

2-B. Seed importation. The commissioner shall establish through rulemaking under subsection 6 a certified hemp seed program based on international standards that includes a registry of seed varieties to allow a person desiring to grow hemp for commercial purposes to import hemp seeds through the department.

3. Application. A person desiring to grow hemp for commercial purposes shall apply to the commissioner for a license on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The application must include the name and address of the applicant, the legal description of the land area or indoor square footage to be used for the production of hemp and a map, an aerial photograph or global positioning coordinates sufficient for locating the production field each field, site, building, enclosed structure, greenhouse, high tunnel structure or row cover where hemp will be grown, handled or stored.

4. License issued. Upon review and approval of an application, the commissioner shall notify the applicant and request that the application fee determined under subsection 7 be submitted. Upon receipt of the appropriate fee, the commissioner shall issue a license, which is valid for a period of ~~one year~~ 2 years and only for the site or sites specified in the license.

5-A. Final location for growing hemp. A person licensed pursuant to subsection 4 shall, within 14 days of planting hemp, provide the commissioner with a final legal description of the land area or indoor square footage to be used for the production of hemp and a map, an aerial photograph or global positioning coordinates sufficient for locating each field, site, building, enclosed structure, greenhouse, high tunnel structure or row cover where hemp is growing.

6. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish an application fee, a license fee, per acre fees for monitoring, sampling and testing and guidelines for monitoring the growth and harvest of hemp. The rules must include rules regarding seed importation and a certified hemp seed program under subsection 2-B, testing and tracking hemp during cultivation, tracking hemp from harvest through processing to the point of sale, tracking hemp from processing to the manufacturing of hemp products and tracking and labeling for sale harvested hemp and hemp products. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

7. Fees. The commissioner shall establish through rulemaking under subsection 6 an application fee, a license fee and per acre fees for monitoring, sampling and testing that are reasonable and necessary to cover the costs of the department. The application fee must be no less than \$50 and no more than \$100, the license fee must be no less than \$100 and no more than \$500, and the fees for monitoring, sampling and testing must be no less than \$1 per acre and no more than \$100 per acre.

All fees received pursuant to this subsection must be paid to the Treasurer of State and credited to a separate, nonlapsing account in the department. Money received pursuant to this subsection must be used for the expenses of administering this chapter.

9. Confidentiality. Notwithstanding Title 1, section 402, the legal description of the land area or indoor square footage to be used for the production of hemp provided under subsections 3 and 5-A, including a map, an aerial photograph or global positioning coordinates sufficient for locating each field, site, building, enclosed structure, greenhouse, high tunnel structure or row cover where hemp will be grown, handled or stored, is confidential and may be shared with state, county and local government agencies only for purposes of administration and enforcement of this section.

Summary reports of information designated as confidential may be released to the public using aggregate data that does not reveal the location of a field, site, building, enclosed structure, greenhouse, high tunnel structure or row cover where hemp is grown, handled or stored.

10. Adult use marijuana and medical use of marijuana. Notwithstanding any provision of Title 22, chapter 558-C or Title 28-B, chapter 1 to the contrary, hemp and hemp products may not be tracked as part of the medical use of marijuana program under Title 22, chapter 558-C or the regulation of adult use marijuana under Title 28-B, chapter 1. The rules applicable to hemp, medical use of marijuana and adult use of marijuana may not prohibit or limit the sale of hemp or hemp products in medical marijuana dispensaries, by medical marijuana caregivers or in adult use marijuana establishments.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2158-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 12, Pt. A, §1, is amended to read:

§ 2158-A. Food, food additives and food products containing hemp not adulterated

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, food, food additives or food products that contain hemp, including cannabidiol derived from hemp, are not considered to be adulterated or misbranded under this subchapter based solely on the inclusion of hemp or cannabidiol derived from hemp. The nonpharmaceutical or nonmedical production, marketing, sale or distribution of food, food additives or food products within the State that contain hemp may not be restricted or prohibited within the State based solely on the inclusion of hemp. A food establishment or eating establishment, as defined in section 2491, subsection 7, may not make a claim that food, food additives or food products that contain hemp can diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease, condition or injury without approval pursuant to federal law. For the purposes of this section, "hemp" has the same meaning as in Title 7, section 2231, subsection 1-A, paragraph C.

Sec. 3. 28-B MRSA §102, sub-§27, as amended by PL 2019, c. 12, Pt. B, §12, is further amended to read:

27. Marijuana. "Marijuana" means the leaves, stems, flowers and seeds of a marijuana plant, whether growing or not. "Marijuana" includes marijuana concentrate but does not include hemp as defined in Title 7, section 2231, subsection 1-A, paragraph C or a marijuana product.

Sec. 4. Review of laws and rules regarding hemp; report. All state agencies shall review the laws and rules applicable to their areas of jurisdiction that pertain to hemp seeds and crops, agricultural commodities and products derived from hemp, and topical or ingestible consumer products, including food, food additives and food products derived from hemp. The reviews must identify laws and rules that require amendment to bring them into agreement with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 406-A and Title 22, section 2158-A. By January 1, 2020, all state agencies that have in their areas of jurisdiction laws or rules pertaining to hemp shall submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry reports regarding the reviews undertaken under this section, including proposals for legislation to bring laws and rules into agreement with Title 7, chapter 406-A and Title 22, section 2158-A. As used in this section "hemp" has the same meaning as in Title 7, section 2231, subsection 1-A, paragraph C.

SUMMARY

This bill:

1. Defines "hemp" to match the definition of "hemp" in the federal Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and defines "indoor square footage";
2. Allows a person to plant and grow up to 3 hemp plants on no more than one acre of land area or indoor square footage and to harvest, possess and process that hemp for personal use without a license;
3. Clarifies that a person licensed to grow hemp may grow hemp from a clone that is produced from seeds acquired from a certified seed source or hemp propagated from tissue cultures that are removed from live plants grown from seeds acquired from a certified seed source;

4. This bill allows a person who holds a license to save seeds from hemp plants that the person has grown and harvested and, after having ensured through testing by an independent 3rd-party tester that the plants that will grow from the seeds will meet the definition of hemp, to use those seeds for breeding and planting hemp. It also requires a person who holds a license, within 14 days after planting hemp seeds or clones, to provide to the commissioner a listing of the varieties of seeds or clones planted and a statement that the seeds or clones meet the definition of hemp.

5. Directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt rules to establish a certified hemp seed program based on international standards that includes a registry of seed varieties to allow a person desiring to grow hemp for commercial purposes to import hemp seeds through the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;

6. Allows for the indoor production of hemp;

7. Increases the period a hemp license is valid from one year to 2 years;

8. Requires a person who is licensed to plant, grow, harvest, possess, process, sell and buy hemp to provide the commissioner with a final legal description of the land area or indoor square footage to be used for the production of hemp and a map, an aerial photograph or global positioning coordinates sufficient for locating each field, site, building, enclosed structure, greenhouse, high tunnel structure or row cover where hemp is growing within 14 days of planting hemp; and

9. Provides that the legal description of the land area or indoor square footage to be used for the production of hemp is confidential and may be shared with state, county and local government agencies only for purposes of administration and enforcement of the law. However, the bill specifies that summary reports of information designated as confidential may be released to the public using aggregate data that does not reveal the location of a field, site, building, enclosed structure, greenhouse, high tunnel structure or row cover where hemp is grown, handled or stored;

10. Provides that hemp and hemp products may not be tracked as part of the medical use of marijuana program or the regulation of adult use marijuana. It states that the rules applicable to hemp, medical use of marijuana and adult use of marijuana may not prohibit or limit the sale of hemp or hemp products in medical marijuana dispensaries, by medical marijuana caregivers or in adult use marijuana establishments.

11. Requires the rules adopted by the commissioner to include rules regarding seed importation and a certified hemp seed program, testing and tracking hemp during cultivation, tracking hemp from harvest through processing to the point of sale, tracking hemp from processing to the manufacturing of hemp products and tracking and labeling for sale harvested hemp and hemp products;

12. Requires all state agencies to review the laws and rules applicable to their areas of jurisdiction that pertain to hemp seeds and crops, agricultural commodities and products derived from hemp, and topical or ingestible consumer products, including food, food additives and food products derived from hemp, and to identify laws and rules that require amendment to bring them into agreement with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 406-A and Title 22, section 2158-A. The bill requires those state agencies, by January 1, 2020, to submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry reports, including proposals for legislation to bring their laws and rules into agreement with Title 7, chapter 406-A and Title 22, section 2158-A; and

13. Fixes cross-references.