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H.490

Introduced by Representatives Zagar of Barnard, Bartholomew of Hartland,
Cheney of Norwich, Connor of Fairfield, Davis of Washington,
Fisher of Lincoln, Klein of East Montpelier, Malcolm of
Pawlet, Masland of Thetford, McCarthy of St. Albans City,
Michelsen of Hardwick, Pearson of Burlington, Ram of
Burlington, Stevens of Shoreham, Toleno of Brattleboro, and
Weed of Enosburgh

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Agriculture; industrial hemp; license

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to issue a license to grow
industrial hemp pursuant to current Vermont statute.

An act relating to authorizing industrial hemp licenses

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 212, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect upon passage, ~~except that the secretary shall not
issue a license to grow industrial hemp pursuant to Chapter 34 of Title 6 until~~

1 ~~the United States Congress amends the definition of “marihuana” for the~~
2 ~~purposes of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802(16)) or the United~~
3 ~~States drug enforcement agency amends its interpretation of the existing~~
4 ~~definition in a manner affording an applicant a reasonable expectation that a~~
5 ~~permit to grow industrial hemp may be issued in accordance with part C of~~
6 ~~chapter 13 of Title 21 of the United States Code Annotated, or the drug~~
7 ~~enforcement agency takes affirmative steps to approve or deny a permit sought~~
8 ~~by the holder of a license to grow industrial hemp in another state.~~

9 Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 561 is amended to read:

10 § 561. INTENT

11 (a) Findings.

12 (1) The State of Vermont recognizes industrial hemp as one of the
13 fastest growing and highest-yielding renewable biomasses known to man.

14 (2) Hemp has been continuously cultivated for over 12,000 years, is
15 accepted and available in the global marketplace, and has numerous beneficial
16 uses, including: high-strength fiber, textiles, clothing, bio-fuel, paper products,
17 protein-rich food containing essential fatty acids and all known amino acids,
18 biodegradable plastics, resins, nontoxic medicinal and cosmetic products,
19 construction materials, rope, livestock feed and bedding, value-added crafts,
20 stream buffering, erosion control, water and soil purification, and weed control
21 to minimize herbicide use.

1 (3) Well-regulated hemp cultivation will enable the State of Vermont to
2 accelerate economic growth and job creation, promote environmental
3 stewardship, and expand export market opportunities pursuant to international
4 trade agreements that the United States is partner to and purports to be in
5 compliance with.

6 (b) Purpose. The intent of this act is to establish policy and procedures for
7 growing industrial hemp in Vermont so that farmers and other businesses in
8 the Vermont agricultural industry can take advantage of this market
9 opportunity ~~when federal regulations permit.~~

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.