

By Senators Rodgers, Starr, Pearson, Collamore, Hardy and Pollina,

Joint resolution urging Congress to reassess the federal definition of hemp in order to allow the product to contain up to one percent delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

*Whereas*, under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, also known as the 2018 Farm Bill, hemp was removed from the list of controlled substances and production was therefore legalized throughout the United States, and

*Whereas*, a variety of products can be made from hemp through the use of its fiber, seed, seed oil, or floral extracts. Hemp can be found in products such as paper, fabric, auto parts, animal bedding, body care products, and essential oils, and

*Whereas*, cannabidiol (CBD) is a chemical compound of Cannabis sativa, bearing little to no psychoactive effects, and is being evaluated for its role as a food additive or health supplement, and

*Whereas*, economic forecasts predict that the total collective market in CBD sales in the United States will be between \$15 billion to \$20 billion annually by 2025; and

*Whereas*, in 2019, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets approved 983 permits to grow or process hemp on 8,880 acres in Vermont, and

*Whereas*, hemp was grown in every county of the State in 2019, and

*Whereas*, cultivators and processors of hemp in Vermont have invested millions of dollars to purchase the equipment and resources necessary to successfully produce hemp and hemp products, and

*Whereas*, the development and growth of the hemp industry in Vermont is critical to improving the health and vitality of the rural economy of the State; and

*Whereas*, the federal government defines hemp in the 2018 Farm Bill as “the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol level of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis,” and

*Whereas*, hemp farmers and processors encourage Congress to reassess the definition of hemp as referenced in the 2018 Farm Bill and increase the farm production values to one percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in order to allow hemp farmers to increase yield potential per acre and profitability for all hemp grown in the State, and

*Whereas*, increasing yield potential per acre equates to increased profit potential for Vermont’s farm families and hemp processors, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly urges Congress to revise the current definition of hemp found in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, increasing the

THC threshold from three-tenths of one percent to one percent, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the U.S. Senate, and the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.