

HB 4089 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Gives hemp research program currently operated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) the name of Oregon Industrial Hemp Agricultural Pilot Research Program. Authorizes ODA to administer the program. Specifies that agricultural hemp seed is agricultural seed for purposes of statutes regulating labeling, testing, certifying, or other aspects of seeds. Directs Director of Agriculture and Dean of College of Agricultural Sciences of Oregon State University to establish a program for labeling and certification of agricultural hemp seed. Provides that accredited independent testing laboratory that has been approved by Oregon Health Authority or ODA may test industrial hemp and industrial hemp commodities and products produced or processed by a grower, handler, or agricultural hemp seed producer. Directs ODA to develop standard identification documentation for industrial hemp and industrial hemp commodities or products. Modifies other provisions related to the regulation of industrial hemp. Authorizes Oregon Liquor Control Commission actions regarding industrial hemp to enforce and ensure compliance with marijuana laws and provisions of industrial hemp laws that incorporate requirements, restrictions, or other provisions of marijuana laws. Changes the description of the limit on production and storage of homegrown cannabis plants. Allows ODA to adopt rules establishing higher average tetrahydrocannabinol concentration limit for industrial hemp if higher average concentration limit is established by federal law. Revises language regarding grower retention of agricultural hemp seed for producing industrial hemp. Establishes Industrial Hemp Fund. Appropriates fund moneys to ODA for the purposes of implementing, administering, and enforcing industrial hemp statutes. Directs certain moneys to the fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes reference to "research" in pilot program name. Redefines agricultural hemp seed as an agricultural seed or a flower seed. Corrects reference to registered rather than licensed growers and handlers. Removes standard identification documentation section. Authorizes ODA to charge fees for administrative change and other services.

BACKGROUND:

Industrial hemp is an agricultural product that is subject to regulation by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and refers to cannabis varieties that are grown for fiber, seed, oil, or as a cover crop. In 2009, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 676 which authorized the production, possession, and commerce of industrial hemp and commodities in Oregon. ODA licensed Oregon's first industrial hemp grower in early 2015. In 2016, House Bill 4060 updated and clarified provisions related to the regulation of industrial hemp, and authorized ODA to adopt rules to govern quality, packaging, and labeling of industrial hemp seed.