



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Second Reading
Date: 2/13/2017

Bill Number

House Bill 17-1148

Sponsors

**Representative Arndt
Senator Cooke**

Short Title

**Registration Of Industrial Hemp
Cultivators**

Research Analyst

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Status

The bill is currently pending before the House on second reading. This research note reflects the bill as referred by the House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee on February 13, 2017.

Background

In 2012, voters approved Amendment 64, which legalized the sale and use of retail (non-medical) marijuana and industrial hemp. Amendment 64 directed the General Assembly to enact legislation governing the cultivation, processing, and sale of industrial hemp. Senate Bill 13-241 created the Industrial Hemp Regulatory Program and delegated to the Department of Agriculture (department) the responsibility for establishing registration and inspection regulations pertaining to the cultivation of industrial hemp. Current law requires a person who wishes to cultivate industrial hemp to apply to the department for registration. The department issues registrations for the purpose of engaging in commerce, market development, and market research by any person or legal entity other than an institution of higher education, or those under a pilot program directed by the department. Currently, there are 327 growers registered for the cultivation of industrial hemp, 318 of those growers are registered to cultivate industrial hemp for commercial proposed.

Under current law, the Commissioner of Agriculture (commissioner) may deny, revoke, or suspend a registration for the cultivation of industrial hemp if the applicant or registrant violates any law or regulation of the department, including engaging in fraud or deception in the procurement of a registration.

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Industrial hemp is defined as the plant of the genus cannabis and any part of the plant, whether growing or not, containing a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of no more than three-tenths of one percent on a dry weight basis (Colo. Const. Art. XVIII, § 16 (2)(d)). All registrants in the industrial hemp program are subject to sampling of their industrial hemp crop to verify that their hemp does not exceed the permissible THC limits.

House Action

House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee (February 13, 2017).
At the hearing, a representative from the Department of Agriculture spoke in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole with no amendments.

Senate Action

Relevant Research