
AN ACT to renumber and amend 961.55 (8); to amend 94.67 (2) and 97.02; and to create 20.115 (7) (gc), 94.55, 348.27 (18) (a) 1. e., 961.32 (3), 961.55 (8) (b) and 961.55 (9) of the statutes; relating to: growing and processing industrial hemp, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law places various restrictions on the possession, manufacture, and delivery of controlled substances. One such controlled substance is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), including THC contained in or obtained from marijuana. The controlled substances law defines marijuana as all parts of plants of the genus Cannabis, whether growing or not, and most derivatives or preparations of the plants (though it does not include, for instance, fiber produced from the stalks or oil made from the seeds of the plants). THC is currently placed in the most restrictive category of controlled substances, which means it may not be prescribed for medical use and may be manufactured and possessed only for particular purposes (such as research) under special permits.

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to issue licenses that authorize the growing and processing of industrial hemp. Industrial hemp is defined as the plant Cannabis sativa with no more than 0.3 percent THC on a dry weight basis. The bill requires an applicant for a license to provide the GPS coordinates of the land on which industrial hemp will be grown or processed and to pay a fee for the license. It also requires DATCP to obtain a criminal history search from the state Department of Justice for each applicant and
SENATE BILL 119

prohibits DATCP from issuing a license to a person if the criminal history search shows the person has been convicted of violating the controlled substances law. The bill provides that a person may possess, transport, sell, distribute, or buy industrial hemp without a license if the industrial hemp was planted, grown, cultivated, and processed by a person licensed by DATCP or by a person in another state or country who planted, grew, cultivated, or processed the industrial hemp in accordance with the laws of that state or country. The bill requires reporting by a person with an industrial hemp license, including reporting all sales of industrial hemp.

This bill also provides that DATCP or an institution of higher education may establish an agricultural pilot program to study industrial hemp and to grow hemp for this purpose. In addition, the bill requires a tribe or an individual tribal member to have a license from DATCP to grow or process industrial hemp. The bill also provides that a tribe may establish, with the assistance of DATCP or an institution of higher education other than a tribal college or university, an agricultural pilot program to study industrial hemp. The bill also allows the committee on state-tribal relations to study economic development ventures related to industrial hemp.

This bill requires DATCP, the University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (UW–CALS), and the Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association to administer a voluntary seed certification program for industrial hemp and allows DATCP and UW–CALS to develop a Wisconsin heritage seed for industrial hemp. In addition, the bill requires any industrial hemp or industrial hemp product intended for human consumption to be tested, in its final consumer-ready state, by an independent testing laboratory. The bill sets out requirements related to the laboratory’s accreditation, testing, and reporting.

This bill also creates an exemption from the controlled substances law for growing, processing, or possessing industrial hemp in conformity with a license issued by DATCP. Under the bill, if a plant being grown for industrial hemp tests at a higher concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol than 1.0 percent, the entire crop is to be seized and destroyed. The bill also provides that a licensed grower of industrial hemp is not subject to criminal penalties if a crop is found to have a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of 1.5 percent or less or if the grower planted certified seed. Additionally, the bill creates an exemption for possessing, transporting, delivering, selling, distributing, and buying industrial hemp if the industrial hemp was planted, grown, cultivated, and processed by a person licensed by DATCP or by a person in another state or country in accordance with the laws of that state or country.

Finally, the bill requires DATCP to promulgate rules for the administration of the licensing law, as well as for certifying industrial hemp and for developing programs for researching industrial hemp genetics.

This bill does not change federal law. Growing and possessing the plant Cannabis is generally prohibited by federal law. The 2014 federal farm bill, 7 USC 5940, authorizes a state agriculture department or an institution of higher education to grow industrial hemp for research purposes, if the state’s laws allow the growing of industrial hemp by a state agricultural agency or institute of higher education.
For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 20.115 (7) (gc) of the statutes is created to read:

20.115 (7) (gc) Industrial hemp. All moneys received under s. 94.55 for regulation of growing and processing industrial hemp under s. 94.55.

SECTION 2. 94.55 of the statutes is created to read:

94.55 Industrial hemp. (1) Definitions. In this section:

(a) “Human consumption” means ingestion by a person or topical application to the skin or hair of a person.

(b) “Industrial hemp” means the plant Cannabis sativa, or any part of the plant, having a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of no more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.

(2) Licensing. (a) The department shall issue licenses that authorize the planting, growing, cultivating, harvesting, and processing of industrial hemp for commercial purposes or research.

(b) A person applying for a license under this subsection shall provide all of the following to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department:

1. The name and address of the applicant.

2. If the applicant is a business entity, the name and address of the chief executive officer or, in the case of a partnership or limited liability company, the names and addresses of the partners or members.
SENATE BILL 119

3. The global positioning system coordinates of the centers of all fields on which the industrial hemp will be planted, grown, or cultivated, or of the location where the industrial hemp will be processed.

(c) A person applying for a license under this subsection shall pay to the department a fee equal to $150 or, if the person will plant, grow, or cultivate industrial hemp, the greater of $150 or $5 multiplied by the number of acres on which the person will plant, grow, or cultivate industrial hemp, but not to exceed $1,000.

(d) 1. The department shall obtain a criminal history search from the records maintained by the department of justice for each person applying for initial licensure under this subsection.

2. The department may not issue a license if the person has ever been convicted of a violation of ch. 961 as indicated in the information obtained under subd. 1.

3. Information obtained by the department under subd. 1. is confidential and may be used only to determine eligibility for licensure.

(e) A license issued under this subsection is valid for 3 years.

(3) DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) A person licensed under sub. (2) who plants, grows, or cultivates industrial hemp shall provide to the department a copy of any contract under which the licensee plants, grows, or cultivates industrial hemp.

(b) A person licensed under sub. (2) shall report to the department the name and address of each person to whom the licensee sells, distributes, or transfers industrial hemp, the amount of industrial hemp sold, distributed, or transferred to each person, and, if the licensee plants, grows, or cultivates industrial hemp, the approximate global positioning system coordinates of the centers of all fields on which the industrial hemp will be grown and any test results received from an
independent testing laboratory showing the delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of the industrial hemp.

(c) A person required to provide information under par. (a) or (b) shall, upon receiving at least 3 days’ notice, make the records showing that information available for inspection by the department during normal business hours.

(4) **Authority to import and sell seed, retain seed, and import industrial hemp.** A person licensed under sub. (2) may bring into this state and resell industrial hemp seed, may retain industrial hemp seed from one crop year to be planted in the following years, may bring industrial hemp and industrial hemp products into this state, and may retain hemp and hemp products that have a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration on a dry weight basis of more than 0.3 percent but not more than 1.0 percent for the purpose of reconditioning the hemp into industrial hemp or industrial hemp products.

(5) **Authority of the department and institutions of higher education.** Notwithstanding sub. (2), the department or an institution of higher education may create and administer an agricultural pilot program to study the growth, cultivation, or marketing of industrial hemp, and may plant, grow, or cultivate industrial hemp without a license or permit, for purposes of research conducted under an agricultural pilot program or for other agricultural or academic research.

(6) **Tribal authority; special committee study.** (a) A tribe in this state or a member of a tribe in this state may not plant, grow, cultivate, or process industrial hemp without a license issued by the department under sub. (2).

(b) A tribe in this state may create and administer an agricultural pilot program to study the growth, cultivation, or marketing of industrial hemp and shall
work with the department or an institution of higher education, not including tribal
colleges or universities in this state, in creating and administering the program.

(c) The special committee on state-tribal relations created under s. 13.83 (3)
may study economic development ventures related to industrial hemp, including
compacts and manufacturing opportunities.

(7) Activities allowed without a license. Notwithstanding any other
provision of law, a person may possess, transport, sell, distribute, or buy industrial
hemp or industrial hemp products if the industrial hemp was planted, grown,
cultivated, harvested, and processed by a person licensed under sub. (2) or by a
person in another state or country in accordance with the laws of that state or
country. A person who engages in the activities under this subsection shall not be
subject to any civil or criminal penalty under state law.

(8) Seed certification; Wisconsin heritage seed. (a) The Wisconsin Crop
Improvement Association, or any successor organization, in cooperation with the
University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the
department, shall establish and administer a certification program for industrial
hemp seed in this state. Participation in the certification program shall be voluntary
for growers and cultivators of industrial hemp.

(b) The University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences and the department may develop a Wisconsin heritage seed for industrial
hemp. In developing a Wisconsin heritage seed, the college and the department may
do any of the following:

1. Breed, plant, grow, cultivate, and harvest the plant Cannabis.

2. Use Cannabis seeds from plants that have a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol
concentration of not more than 1.0 percent.
3. Collect seeds from wild Cannabis plants.

   (9) TESTING OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP INTENDED FOR CONSUMPTION. (a) All industrial hemp and each industrial hemp product intended for human consumption shall be tested, in its final consumer-ready state, by an independent testing laboratory to confirm that it is nonpsychoactive and contains safe levels of potential contaminants. An independent testing laboratory shall have all of the following:

   1. Accreditation by an impartial organization that provides accreditation pursuant to the standard ISO/IEC 17025 of the International Organization for Standardization and that is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Corporation Mutual Recognition Arrangement, or other comparable accreditation standard required by the department.

   2. A demonstrated ability to accurately measure individual cannabinoids in both their acidic and neutral forms down to 0.05 percent by weight, including delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinolic acid, cannabidiol, and cannabidiolic acid.

   (b) For the purpose of testing under this subsection, an independent testing laboratory may possess industrial hemp and industrial hemp products grown, cultivated, harvested, or processed by a person licensed under sub. (2) or by a person in another state or country in accordance with the laws of that state or country. Any testing performed by a laboratory under this subsection shall comply with the methodologies, ranges, and parameters for testing described in the laboratory’s accreditation.

   (c) The department may create a registration program to register persons to sample an industrial hemp crop and transport the industrial hemp sample to an independent testing laboratory. A person registered under this paragraph shall be
trained by the department in sampling and chain of custody protocols. The department may charge a reasonable fee for registration and training.

(d) An independent testing laboratory that tests for an industrial hemp crop’s delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration shall provide the test results to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. An independent testing laboratory shall provide to the department, at the department’s request, test results from testing on any industrial hemp or industrial hemp product intended for human consumption.

(10) RULES. The department shall promulgate rules for the administration of this section including rules concerning all of the following:

(a) Administering a program for certifying industrial hemp seed.

(b) Sampling and testing plants during growth for delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol levels.

(c) Developing programs for researching industrial hemp genetics.

(d) Supervising the growing, harvesting, and processing of industrial hemp.

(e) Safe levels of potential contaminants in industrial hemp and industrial hemp products intended for human consumption, including pesticides, heavy metals, residual solvents, and microbiological contaminants, for purposes of sub. (9).

(f) Sampling and testing industrial hemp and industrial hemp products in their final consumer-ready state, including determining batch sizes and nonpsychoactive levels of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, for purposes of sub. (9).

(11) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT OR COMMODITY. Industrial hemp and industrial hemp products shall be considered agricultural products or commodities under all applicable provisions of the statutes.

SECTION 3. 94.67 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:
“Agricultural commodity” means any plant or part of a plant, animal or animal product produced by a person primarily for sale, consumption, propagation or other use by humans or animals. “Agricultural commodity” includes industrial hemp, as defined in s. 94.55 (1).

SECTION 4. 97.02 of the statutes is amended to read:

97.02 Standards; adulterated food. For the purposes of this chapter, a food is adulterated if it is adulterated within the meaning of 21 USC 342, except that the department may not consider a food to be adulterated solely because it contains industrial hemp, as defined in s. 94.55 (1), or an industrial hemp product.

SECTION 5. 348.27 (18) (a) 1. e. of the statutes is created to read:

348.27 (18) (a) 1. e. Industrial hemp, as defined in s. 94.55 (1).

SECTION 6. 961.32 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

961.32 (3) (a) In this subsection, “industrial hemp” has the meaning given in s. 94.55 (1).

(b) A person licensed by the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection under s. 94.55 (2), and an agent or employee of the person acting in the usual course of the agent’s or employee’s business or employment, may plant, grow, cultivate, harvest, process, possess, transport, sell, deliver, distribute, or buy industrial hemp in this state to the extent authorized by the person’s license and in conformity with s. 94.55 and the rules promulgated under that section. A person licensed under s. 94.55 (2), and an agent or employee of the person acting in the usual course of the agent’s or employee’s business or employment, who plants, grows, or cultivates industrial hemp, may not be prosecuted for a criminal offense if the delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of the crop grown or cultivated is 1.5 percent or less on a dry weight basis, or if the person planted seed that has been
certified as having a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of no more than 0.3 percent. A person may not be prosecuted for a criminal offense for possessing, transporting, selling, delivering, distributing, or buying industrial hemp in this state if the industrial hemp was planted, grown, cultivated, harvested, and processed by a person licensed under s. 94.55 (2) or by a person in another state or country in accordance with the laws of that state or country.

SECTION 7. 961.55 (8) of the statutes is renumbered 961.55 (8) (intro.) and amended to read:

961.55 (8) (intro.) The failure, upon demand by any officer or employee designated in s. 961.51 (1) or (2), of the person in occupancy or in control of land or premises upon which the species of plants are growing or being stored, to produce an one of the following constitutes authority for the seizure and forfeiture of the plants described in sub. (7):

(a) An appropriate federal registration, or proof that the person is the holder thereof, constitutes authority for the seizure and forfeiture of the plants.

SECTION 8. 961.55 (8) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

961.55 (8) (b) Evidence of licensure under s. 94.55 (2).

SECTION 9. 961.55 (9) of the statutes is created to read:

961.55 (9) If a crop intended to be industrial hemp, as defined in s. 94.55 (1), is tested for delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol levels and the average concentration of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol in a whole dry plant is found to exceed 1.0 percent, the entire crop on the field where the plant was found shall be seized and destroyed. Before a crop is seized and destroyed under this subsection, the agency whose officers or employees intend to seize and destroy the crop shall provide, to the person licensed under s. 94.55 (2) to grow the crop or to the person's agent or employee, written
documentation verifying the test results for the crop that is subject to seizure and destruction.


(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds all of the following:

(a) That the Cannabis sativa plant used for the production of industrial hemp is separate and distinct from forms of Cannabis used to produce marijuana.

(b) That section 7606 of the federal farm bill of 2014, 7 USC 5940, allows states to establish agricultural pilot programs to study the growth, cultivation, or marketing of industrial hemp.

(c) That industrial hemp is used in products such as building materials, textiles, cordage, fiber, food, floor coverings, fuel, paint, animal feed, paper, particle board, plastics, seed meal, cosmetics, seed, oil, and yarn.

(d) That cannabidiol and hemp seed oil have the ability to provide relief for more maladies than medical marijuana, without psychotropic effect.

(e) That the growth, cultivation, and processing of industrial hemp will provide an alternate crop to vitalize the agricultural sector in this state and will provide production and processing jobs.