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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5012**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Hatfield, Honeyford, Rolfes, Ericksen, Kohl-Welles, Hasegawa, Chase, and Hobbs)

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the growing of industrial hemp;  
2 adding a new chapter to Title 15 RCW; creating a new section; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to authorize the  
6 growing of industrial hemp as a legal, agricultural activity in this  
7 state.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
9 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
10 otherwise.

11 (1) "Grower" means any person or business entity growing  
12 industrial hemp.

13 (2) "Hemp products" includes all products made from industrial  
14 hemp including, but not limited to, cloth, cordage, fiber, food,  
15 fuel, paint, paper, particle board, plastics, seed, seed meal and  
16 seed oil for consumption, and certified seed for cultivation, if the  
17 seeds originate from industrial hemp varieties.

18 (3) "Industrial hemp" means all parts and varieties of the  
19 genera, *Cannabis*, cultivated or possessed by a grower, whether  
20 growing or not, that contain a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of

1 0.3 percent or less by dry weight, except that the THC concentration  
2 limit of 0.3 percent may be exceeded for licensed industrial hemp  
3 seed research.

4 (4) "THC concentration" means percent of total THC, which is the  
5 combined percent of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol and  
6 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid in any part of the plant, *Cannabis*,  
7 regardless of moisture content.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Industrial hemp is an agricultural product  
9 that may be grown, produced, possessed, and commercially traded in  
10 the state.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Subject to receiving federal or  
12 private funds for this purpose, Washington State University shall  
13 study the feasibility and desirability of industrial hemp production  
14 in Washington. In conducting the study, the Washington State  
15 University shall gather information from agricultural and scientific  
16 literature, consult with experts and the public, and review the best  
17 practices of other states and countries worldwide regarding the  
18 development of markets for industrial hemp and hemp products. The  
19 study must include an analysis of:

20 (a) The market economic conditions affecting the development of  
21 an industrial hemp industry in the state;

22 (b) The estimated value-added benefit that Washington's economy  
23 would reap from having a developed industrial hemp industry in the  
24 state;

25 (c) Whether Washington soils and growing conditions are  
26 appropriate for use of hemp in the rotation of other crops and  
27 whether soils and growing conditions are appropriate for farming  
28 industrial hemp at economically viable levels;

29 (d) The agronomy research being conducted worldwide relating to  
30 industrial hemp varieties, production, and use; and

31 (e) Other legislative acts, experiences, and outcomes around the  
32 world regarding industrial hemp production.

33 (2)(a) Washington State University shall report its findings to  
34 the legislature by January 14, 2016.

35 (b) The report must include recommendations for any legislative  
36 actions necessary to encourage and support the development of an  
37 industrial hemp industry in the state of Washington.

38 (3) This section expires August 1, 2016.

1        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 5.**     Sections 1 through 3 of this act  
2     constitute a new chapter in Title 15 RCW.

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