

# HOUSE BILL 1123

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EMERGENCY BILL

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By: **Delegates Fraser–Hidalgo, Cassilly, Barve, Gilchrist, Jacobs, Otto, Stein, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture – Hemp Research and Production**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the name of the Industrial Hemp Pilot Program to be the Hemp  
4 Research Pilot Program; establishing the Hemp Farming Program; establishing the  
5 purposes of the Hemp Farming Program; requiring the Department of Agriculture  
6 to administer the Hemp Farming Program; establishing the Hemp Farming Fund as  
7 a special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the  
8 Department to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to hold the Fund  
9 and the Comptroller to account for the Fund; specifying the contents of the Fund;  
10 specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used; providing for the investment  
11 of money in and expenditures from the Fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund  
12 to be credited to the Fund; exempting the Fund from a certain provision of law  
13 requiring interest earnings on State money to accrue to the General Fund of the  
14 State; requiring the Department, in consultation with the Governor and the Attorney  
15 General, to establish a certain plan for monitoring and regulating the production of  
16 hemp in the State; requiring the Department to submit a certain plan to the  
17 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; requiring the Department to  
18 establish a procedure for licensing the production of hemp in accordance with a  
19 certain plan; authorizing the Department to set certain fees; requiring the  
20 Department to pay certain fees into the Fund; prohibiting a person from producing  
21 hemp in the State unless the person is licensed by the Department or the Secretary  
22 of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; requiring the Department to report certain  
23 violations to the Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney; requiring the Department  
24 to require a person to correct certain violations in a certain manner under certain  
25 circumstances; prohibiting a person from producing hemp in the State for a certain  
26 period of time for certain violations; requiring the Department to adopt certain  
27 regulations; requiring the Department to amend certain regulations, procedures, or  
28 applications under the Hemp Research Pilot Program under certain circumstances;  
29 declaring the intent of the General Assembly; providing for the application of certain  
30 provisions of this Act; altering certain definitions; defining certain terms; making a

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 stylistic change; making conforming changes; making this Act an emergency  
2 measure; and generally relating to hemp research and hemp production.

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
4 Article – Criminal Law  
5 Section 5–101(a) and (r)(1)  
6 Annotated Code of Maryland  
7 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Criminal Law  
10 Section 5–101(r)(2)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Agriculture  
15 Section 14–101 and 14–102 to be under the amended title “Title 14. Hemp”  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article – Agriculture  
20 New subtitle designation “Subtitle 1. Definitions” immediately preceding Section  
21 14–101; Section 14–201 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 2. Hemp  
22 Research Pilot Program”; and 14–301 through 14–309 to be under the new  
23 subtitle “Subtitle 3. Hemp Production”  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
27 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
28 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
29 Annotated Code of Maryland  
30 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

31 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
32 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
33 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)112. and 113.  
34 Annotated Code of Maryland  
35 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

36 BY adding to  
37 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
38 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)114.  
39 Annotated Code of Maryland  
40 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Criminal Law**

4 5–101.

5 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (r) (1) “Marijuana” means:

7 (i) all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether or not the  
8 plant is growing;

9 (ii) the seeds of the plant;

10 (iii) the resin extracted from the plant; and

11 (iv) each compound, manufactured product, salt, derivative, mixture,  
12 or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or its resin.

13 (2) “Marijuana” does not include:

14 (i) the mature stalks of the plant;

15 (ii) fiber produced from the mature stalks;

16 (iii) oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant;

17 (iv) except for resin, any other compound, manufactured product,  
18 salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks, fiber, oil, or cake;

19 (v) the sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination;  
20 or

21 (vi) [the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of such plant,  
22 whether growing or not, with a delta–9–tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that does not  
23 exceed 0.3% on a dry weight basis] **HEMP AS DEFINED IN § 14–101 OF THE**  
24 **AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.**

25 **Article – Agriculture**

26 Title 14. [Industrial] Hemp.

27 **SUBTITLE 1. DEFINITIONS.**

1 14–101.

2 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 [(b) “Independent testing laboratory” has the meaning stated in § 13–3301 of the  
4 Health – General Article.]

5 (B) **“FUND” MEANS THE HEMP FARMING FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER §**  
6 **14–304 OF THIS TITLE.**

7 (c) (1) [“Industrial hemp”] **“HEMP”** means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and  
8 any part of [such] **THAT** plant, **INCLUDING ALL DERIVATIVES, EXTRACTS,**  
9 **CANNABINOIDS, ISOMERS, ACIDS, SALTS, AND SALTS OF ISOMERS,** whether growing or  
10 not, with a delta–9–tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that does not exceed 0.3% on a dry  
11 weight basis.

12 (2) [“Industrial hemp”] **“HEMP”** does not include any plant or part of a  
13 plant intended for a use that is regulated under Title 13, Subtitle 33 of the Health – General  
14 Article.

15 (D) **“HEMP PRODUCT” MEANS A PRODUCT DERIVED FROM HEMP PRODUCED**  
16 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE.**

17 (E) **“INDEPENDENT TESTING LABORATORY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN**  
18 **§ 13–3301 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

19 [(d)] (F) “Institution of higher education” has the meaning stated in the federal  
20 Higher Education Act of 1965.

21 [(e) “Program” means the Industrial Hemp Pilot Program established under §  
22 14–102 of this subtitle.]

23 **SUBTITLE 2. HEMP RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAM.**

24 **14–201.**

25 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE HEMP RESEARCH PILOT**  
26 **PROGRAM.**

27 [14–102.] **14–202.**

28 (a) There is [an Industrial] **A Hemp RESEARCH** Pilot Program.

29 (b) The purpose of the Program is to authorize and facilitate the research of  
30 [industrial] hemp and any aspect of growing, cultivating, harvesting, processing,

1 manufacturing, transporting, marketing, or selling [industrial] hemp for agricultural[,  
2 industrial,] or commercial purposes.

3 (c) The Department or an institution of higher education that submits an  
4 application to the Department in a manner determined by the Department may grow,  
5 cultivate, harvest, process, manufacture, transport, market, or sell [industrial] hemp under  
6 the Program if the [industrial] hemp is grown or cultivated to further agricultural research  
7 or academic research purposes.

8 (d) (1) The Department shall certify and register a site that will be used to  
9 grow or cultivate [industrial] hemp under the Program.

10 (2) The Department may charge a fee of up to \$250 to certify and register  
11 a site that will be used to grow or cultivate [industrial] hemp.

12 (e) In order to carry out the purpose of the Program:

13 (1) To the extent necessary, the Department or an institution of higher  
14 education may contract with a person to grow or cultivate [industrial] hemp; and

15 (2) A person that grows or cultivates [industrial] hemp under the Program  
16 may purchase or otherwise obtain seeds that produce plants that meet the definition of  
17 [“industrial] “hemp” under § 14–101 of this subtitle.

18 (f) (1) In accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection and subject to  
19 paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, a person that grows or cultivates [industrial]  
20 hemp under the Program shall:

21 (i) Verify that the plants grown or cultivated by the person meet the  
22 definition of [“industrial] “hemp” under § 14–101 of this subtitle;

23 (ii) Maintain all records of verification at the site that is used to grow  
24 or cultivate [industrial] hemp; and

25 (iii) Make all records available for inspection by:

26 1. The Department; or

27 2. The institution of higher education that contracted with  
28 the person under subsection (e)(1) of this section to grow or cultivate [industrial] hemp.

29 (2) The verification required under this subsection shall include:

30 (i) Documentation from an independent testing laboratory  
31 registered under § 13–3311 of the Health – General Article; or

1 (ii) Documentation from the institution of higher education that  
2 contracted with the person under subsection (e)(1) of this section to grow or cultivate  
3 [industrial] hemp.

4 (3) An independent testing laboratory or an institution of higher education  
5 that provides verification documentation under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall  
6 conduct on-site inspections to perform the testing necessary for the verification.

7 (4) The frequency of the verification required under this subsection shall  
8 be determined by:

9 (i) The Department; or

10 (ii) The institution of higher education that contracted with a person  
11 under subsection (e)(1) of this section to grow or cultivate [industrial] hemp.

12 (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

13 (1) [Industrial hemp] **HEMP** grown or cultivated under the Program is an  
14 agricultural product that may be:

15 (i) Possessed in the State; and

16 (ii) Sold, distributed, transported, marketed, or processed in the  
17 State or outside the State; and

18 (2) [Industrial hemp] **HEMP** grown, cultivated, and harvested in a state  
19 that authorizes the growth, cultivation, and harvesting of [industrial] hemp may be  
20 processed, manufactured, transported, marketed, or sold in the State under the Program.

21 (h) The Department or an institution of higher education may collect and publish  
22 data and research on [industrial] hemp, including data and research on the growth,  
23 cultivation, production, and processing of [industrial] hemp and products derived from  
24 [industrial] hemp.

25 (i) The Department shall adopt regulations to carry out this subtitle.

### 26 **SUBTITLE 3. HEMP PRODUCTION.**

27 **14-301.**

28 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE HEMP FARMING PROGRAM.**

29 **14-302.**

30 **IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT:**

1           (1)   HEMP BE ESTABLISHED AS AN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY;

2           (2)   HEMP PRODUCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE:

3                 (i)   POSSESSED IN THE STATE; AND

4                 (ii)  SOLD,   DISTRIBUTED,   TRANSPORTED,   MARKETED,  
5  MANUFACTURED, OR PROCESSED IN THE STATE OR OUTSIDE THE STATE; AND

6           (3)   HEMP PRODUCED OUTSIDE THE STATE IN A STATE THAT  
7  AUTHORIZES THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP MAY BE SOLD, DISTRIBUTED,  
8  TRANSPORTED, MARKETED, MANUFACTURED, OR PROCESSED IN THE STATE.

9  14-303.

10          (A)   THERE IS A HEMP FARMING PROGRAM.

11          (B)   THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:

12                 (1)   PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP IN THE STATE;

13                 (2)   PROMOTE THE COMMERCIAL SALE OF HEMP PRODUCTS IN THE  
14  STATE OR OUTSIDE THE STATE;

15                 (3)   FACILITATE THE RESEARCH OF HEMP AND HEMP PRODUCTS  
16  BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR; AND

17                 (4)   MONITOR AND REGULATE THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP IN THE  
18  STATE.

19          (C)   THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

20  14-304.

21          (A)   THERE IS A HEMP FARMING FUND.

22          (B)   THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO DEFRAY THE COSTS OF  
23  ADMINISTERING AND ENFORCING THE PROGRAM.

24          (C)   THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

25          (D)   (1)   THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT

1 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

2 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
3 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

4 (E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

5 (1) REVENUE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND UNDER § 14-306 OF THIS  
6 SUBTITLE;

7 (2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

8 (3) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND

9 (4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR  
10 THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

11 (F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH  
12 ADMINISTERING AND ENFORCING THE PROGRAM.

13 (G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND  
14 IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

15 (2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO  
16 THE FUND.

17 14-305.

18 (A) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNOR AND THE  
19 ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHALL ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR MONITORING AND  
20 REGULATING THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP IN THE STATE.

21 (B) (1) THE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION  
22 SHALL INCLUDE:

23 (I) A PRACTICE TO MAINTAIN, FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS  
24 THAN 3 CALENDAR YEARS, RELEVANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE LAND ON  
25 WHICH HEMP IS PRODUCED, INCLUDING A LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND;

26 (II) A PROCEDURE FOR TESTING, USING  
27 POSTDECARBOXYLATION OR ANOTHER SIMILARLY RELIABLE METHOD, THE  
28 DELTA-9-TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL CONCENTRATION LEVELS OF HEMP  
29 PRODUCED IN THE STATE;



1                   (III) A PROCEDURE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DISPOSAL OF:

2                   1. PLANTS, WHETHER GROWING OR NOT, THAT ARE  
3 PRODUCED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

4                   2. PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM PLANTS THAT ARE  
5 PRODUCED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE;

6                   (IV) A PROCEDURE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS SUBTITLE;

7                   (V) A PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING ANNUAL INSPECTIONS  
8 THAT INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, A RANDOM SAMPLE OF HEMP PRODUCERS TO VERIFY  
9 THAT HEMP IS BEING PRODUCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE;

10                  (VI) A PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING TO THE SECRETARY OF  
11 THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT BY THE  
12 DEPARTMENT:

13                  1. THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EACH PERSON  
14 LICENSED TO PRODUCE HEMP;

15                  2. THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND ON WHICH  
16 HEMP IS PRODUCED; AND

17                  3. THE STATUS OF EACH LICENSE AND ANY CHANGES TO  
18 THE STATUS OF A LICENSE; AND

19                  (VII) A CERTIFICATION THAT THE STATE HAS THE RESOURCES  
20 AND PERSONNEL TO CARRY OUT THE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED  
21 UNDER THE PLAN.

22                  (2) THE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION  
23 MAY INCLUDE ANY OTHER PRACTICE OR PROCEDURE THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH  
24 FEDERAL LAW.

25                  (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT THE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER  
26 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT  
27 OF AGRICULTURE FOR APPROVAL.

28                  (2) IF THE SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
29 DOES NOT APPROVE THE PLAN SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
30 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

1 (I) AMEND THE PLAN; AND

2 (II) SUBMIT THE AMENDED PLAN TO THE SECRETARY OF THE  
3 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

4 14-306.

5 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR LICENSING  
6 THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN ESTABLISHED UNDER  
7 § 14-305 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

8 (B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SET REASONABLE FEES FOR THE ISSUANCE AND  
9 RENEWAL OF LICENSES AND OTHER SERVICES THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES UNDER  
10 THIS SUBTITLE.

11 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY ALL FUNDS COLLECTED UNDER THIS  
12 SECTION INTO THE FUND.

13 14-307.

14 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS  
15 SUBTITLE.

16 14-308.

17 (A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
18 EDUCATION OR A PERSON THAT PRODUCES HEMP UNDER THE HEMP RESEARCH  
19 PILOT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS TITLE.

20 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT PRODUCE HEMP IN THE STATE UNLESS THE PERSON  
21 IS LICENSED BY:

22 (1) THE DEPARTMENT; OR

23 (2) THE SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

24 14-309.

25 (A) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY:

26 (I) FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S PLAN FOR  
27 MONITORING AND REGULATING THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP ESTABLISHED UNDER §

1 **14-305 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

2 **(II) MISREPRESENT OR FAIL TO PROVIDE THE LEGAL**  
3 **DESCRIPTION OF LAND ON WHICH HEMP IS PRODUCED;**

4 **(III) PRODUCE HEMP WITHOUT A VALID LICENSE; OR**

5 **(IV) PRODUCE PLANTS, OR ANY PART OF A PLANT, THAT**  
6 **EXCEEDS A DELTA-9-TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL CONCENTRATION OF 0.3% ON A**  
7 **DRY WEIGHT BASIS.**

8 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT A PERSON THAT KNOWINGLY**  
9 **VIOLATES THIS SUBTITLE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE U.S. ATTORNEY.**

10 **(B) (1) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT A PERSON**  
11 **NEGLIGENTLY VIOLATED THIS SUBTITLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE THE**  
12 **PERSON TO CORRECT THE VIOLATION, INCLUDING REQUIRING THAT:**

13 **(I) THE VIOLATION BE CORRECTED BY A REASONABLE DATE;**  
14 **AND**

15 **(II) THE PERSON REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT, AT A**  
16 **FREQUENCY DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS**  
17 **THAN 2 CALENDAR YEARS, TO VERIFY COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.**

18 **(2) IF A PERSON IS FOUND BY THE DEPARTMENT TO HAVE**  
19 **NEGLIGENTLY VIOLATED THIS SUBTITLE THREE TIMES IN A 4-YEAR PERIOD, THE**  
20 **PERSON MAY NOT PRODUCE HEMP IN THE STATE FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS**  
21 **BEGINNING ON THE DATE OF THE THIRD VIOLATION.**

22 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

23 **6-226.**

24 **(a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless**  
25 **inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the**  
26 **terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the**  
27 **State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to**  
28 **receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General**  
29 **Fund of the State.**

30 **(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply**  
31 **to the following funds:**

1 112. the Pretrial Services Program Grant Fund; [and]

2 113. the Veteran Employment and Transition Success Fund;

3 **AND**

4 **114. THE HEMP FARMING FUND.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of  
6 Agriculture shall amend any regulation, procedure, or application under the Hemp  
7 Research Pilot Program that is not consistent with:

8 (1) the federal Controlled Substances Act; and

9 (2) any federal authorization to research or produce hemp.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
11 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
12 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
13 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
14 enacted.