



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1692/1  
MCP:kjf:jf

## 2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 215

May 14, 2015 - Introduced by Representatives CONSIDINE, DANOU, KAHL, HESSELBEIN, POPE, MILROY, SARGENT, C. TAYLOR, SUBECK, GOYKE, GENRICH, SINICKI, QUINN, JORGENSEN, KOLSTE, BROSTOFF, SPREITZER, OHNSTAD and BERCEAU, cosponsored by Senators VINEHOUT, MILLER, HARRIS DODD, RINGHAND and ERPENBACH. Referred to Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations.

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

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### *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 (DATCP) 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. The bill requires an applicant for a license to provide a legal description 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 prohibits DATCP

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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 requires reporting by a person with an industrial hemp license, including reporting all sales of industrial hemp. The bill also requires DATCP to promulgate rules for the administration of the licensing law.

This bill also creates an exemption from the controlled substances law for growing or processing industrial hemp in conformity with a license issued by DATCP.

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.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

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

2           20.115 (7) (gc) *Industrial hemp.* All moneys received under s. 94.55 for  
3 regulation of growing and processing industrial hemp under s. 94.55.

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

5           **94.55 Industrial hemp. (1) DEFINITION.** In this section, "industrial hemp"  
6 means the plant *Cannabis sativa* having no more than 0.3 percent  
7 tetrahydrocannabinol, including the seeds of that plant.

8           **(2) LICENSING.** (a) The department shall issue licenses that authorize growing,  
9 processing, and, in conjunction with growing or processing, selling industrial hemp  
10 for commercial purposes or research.

11           (b) A person applying for a license under this subsection shall provide the name  
12 and address of the applicant and the legal description of the land on which industrial  
13 hemp will be grown or processed and shall pay a fee equal to \$150 or, if the person

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1 will grow industrial hemp, the greater of \$150 or \$5 multiplied by the number of acres  
2 on which the person will grow industrial hemp.

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

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

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

10 (d) A license issued under this subsection is valid for one year.

11 **(3) DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.** (a) A licensee under sub. (2)  
12 who grows industrial hemp shall provide all of the following to the department:

13 1. Documentation showing that the seeds planted were of a variety certified to  
14 have no more than 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol.

15 2. A copy of any contract under which the licensee grows industrial hemp.

16 (b) A licensee under sub. (2) shall report to the department the name and  
17 address of each person to whom the licensee sells industrial hemp and the amount  
18 of industrial hemp sold to each person.

19 **(4) AUTHORITY TO IMPORT AND SELL SEED.** A person licensed under sub. (2) may  
20 bring into this state and resell seed of varieties of industrial hemp that are certified  
21 to have no more than 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol.

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

24 (a) Certifying industrial hemp seeds.

25 (b) Testing plants during growth for tetrahydrocannabinol levels.

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

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

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

5 (b) A person licensed by the department of agriculture, trade and consumer  
6 protection under s. 94.55 (2), and an agent or employee of the person acting in the  
7 usual course of the agent’s or employee’s business or employment, may plant,  
8 cultivate, grow, harvest, process, possess, and deliver industrial hemp in this state  
9 to the extent authorized by the person’s license and in conformity with s. 94.55 and  
10 the rules promulgated under that section.

11 **SECTION 4.** 961.55 (8) of the statutes is renumbered 961.55 (8) (intro.) and  
12 amended to read:

13 961.55 (8) (intro.) The failure, upon demand by any officer or employee  
14 designated in s. 961.51 (1) or (2), of the person in occupancy or in control of land or  
15 premises upon which the species of plants are growing or being stored, to produce an  
16 one of the following constitutes authority for the seizure and forfeiture of the plants  
17 described in sub. (7):

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

20 **SECTION 5.** 961.55 (8) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

21 961.55 (8) (b) Evidence of licensure under s. 94.55.

22 (END)