



INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

Industrial Hemp Interim. The Industrial Hemp Program Study Committee met on November 21, 2016, in Des Moines. The Committee adopted rules and elected Co-Chairpersons Senator Kevin Kinney and Representative Lee Hein. Other members included Senators William Dotzler and Tim Kapucian and Representatives Bruce Bearinger and Mike Sexton.

Charge. The charge of the Industrial Hemp Program Study Committee is to evaluate the potential for and logistics of establishing an Industrial Hemp Program in Iowa. This would include the economic and environmental impacts related to establishing a Program and the regulatory aspects related to production of industrial hemp.

Panel Discussion. A panel provided information on the history of growing industrial hemp and other related information. This included Robin Pruisner, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALSS); Angie Rieck-Hinz, Iowa State University (ISU); and Dale Woolery, Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

Issues discussed by Ms. Pruisner included Section 7606 of the [2014 Farm Bill](#) that specifies industrial hemp must have a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of 0.3% or less on a dry-weight basis. The Farm Bill also allows institutions of higher education or state departments of agriculture to grow industrial hemp. Other issues included the availability of industrial hemp seeds, seed certification programs, and the concerns about cross-pollination of plants.

Production and Economics. A second panel provided information on the logistics of growing, harvesting, and selling industrial hemp. The discussion also included economic potentials, market development, and other implementation issues. This panel included Dr. Christopher Disbro from the Heartland Hemp Company and two hemp farmers: Mike Lewis from Kentucky and Rick Trojan from Colorado.

Other States. The National Conference for State Legislatures (NCSL) published an [article](#) on August 19, 2016, discussing industrial hemp. As of that date, 30 states had passed legislation related to industrial hemp. Some legislation has established an industrial hemp research and/or pilot program. Other states have been authorized to complete a study on the industrial hemp industry. It was also reported that 16 states have legalized industrial hemp production.

Meeting Adjourned. The public made comments after the panel discussions were completed. No recommendations were made by the Committee and the meeting was adjourned.

Additional Information. For additional information, refer to the Industrial Hemp Program Study Committee [website](#).

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