

One Hundred Sixth Legislature - Second Session - 2020

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1152

Chairperson: Senator Steve Halloran

Committee: Agriculture

Date of Hearing: February 4, 2020

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1152 would make various revisions in the Hemp Farming Act to be consistent with requirements for state hemp plans under the Interim Final Rule of USDA implementing the federal hemp program authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill. These revisions primarily address requirements of state plans with regard to hemp sample collection, THC content testing specifications, qualification of labs utilized for hemp testing services, when hemp is determined to exceed THC tolerance, timeliness of harvest after testing, and the definition of negligent violations and violations that exceed negligence.

The bill also makes a number of additional clarifications to the Act and incorporates Revisor's Office revisions for style and clarity. The bill further strikes an exemption of noncommercial cultivation of heirloom hemp from regulation but clarifies that cultivation does not include the presence of naturally occurring (non-cultivated) feral hemp.

Finally, the LB 1152 inserts legislative intent that the Department shall not limit license applications and licenses issued to qualified applicants. The bill would state legislative intent for two years of general fund authority to help support implementation of the Act but states legislative intent that the program be thereafter self-funded.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Steve Halloran