

Hemp for Vermont!

Some Facts about H.267 and Hemp

What H.267 would do:

- Allow Vermont farmers to grow industrial hemp within the state of Vermont
- Allow processors to process hemp plants into value-added products (see below)
- Direct the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate rules to set up a licensing program for farmers who want to grow hemp
 - Farmers would have to specify exactly where they plan to grow the hemp
 - Licenses would be valid for 24 months
 - Farmers must ensure the integrity of the hemp crop while it is growing
 - Farmers must maintain production records for at least 3 years
 - Farmers must agree to have the Department of Public Safety or the Agency of Agriculture inspect their hemp fields at any time
- Mandate that the Secretary of Agriculture is the sole seed supplier in the state

Is Hemp a Drug?

- *NO!* Although hemp has a cousin in marijuana, there are many varieties of cannabis sativa. The varieties used for industrial hemp have a low THC (the psychoactive ingredient) content and a high CBD (the anti-psychoactive ingredient) content.
- Smoking hemp will give you a migraine headache, and it has absolutely no value as a drug.

What is Hemp Used For?

- The seed can be used for food as a seed. Seeds can be made into “hemp milk;” gluten-free, high-protein flour; lactose-free cheese; and beer, as well as animal feed from the seed cake.
- The seed can also be pressed or food grade oil and industrial grade oil. (salad oil, baking oil, candle oil, crayons, and health and beauty products such as lotions, shampoos, lipstick)
- The core of the stalk can be used for animal bedding, fuel, and construction materials (like particle board, car moldings, structural beams, concrete reinforcement).
- The fiber in the stalk can be used to make cloth, rope, twine, paper, and carpet.

Where Else is it Legal?

- Every industrialized nation in the world except the U.S. allows industrial hemp production.
- North Dakota allows farmers to grow hemp and has issued 2 licenses to farmers. However, they are not yet able to plant the seed because of the federal policies against it. West Virginia and Montana have also passed laws allowing farmers to grow hemp in these states, but the laws are essentially invalid, as they are predicated on a change in federal policy.
- Arkansas, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia have all passed laws allowing research on hemp.

Why Would Farmers Grow It?

- Hemp is a good crop to use in rotation with corn. It is a fast-grower and helps to kill weeds in the field without the use of herbicides.
- Hemp could help farmers who want to transition to organic to have a cash crop in their fields that doesn't need chemical herbicide or pesticide.