

HOUSE No. 832

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INDUSTRIAL HEMP LEGALIZATION COMMISSION..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall
2 be established an Industrial Hemp Legalization Commission which shall consist of two members
3 of the house of representatives who shall be appointed by the speaker of the house; two members
4 of the senate who shall be appointed by the president of the senate; 10 members who shall be
5 appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be the Commissioner of Agriculture; 1 of whom
6 shall be the Commissioner of Public Safety; 1 of whom shall be a representative from the
7 Executive Office Housing and Economic Development; 1 of whom shall be a representative of
8 the Board of Agriculture; 1 of whom shall be a representative of an agricultural trade
9 organization; 2 of whom shall be representatives of the farmers of the commonwealth; and 1 of
10 whom shall be the Dean of the College of Natural Resources at the University of Massachusetts
11 Amherst; All members shall serve without compensation. Said commission may consult
12 individuals and entities outside of its membership for research, advice, support, and other
13 functions necessary and appropriate to accomplish the commission’s objectives.

14 (b) The commission shall make an investigation and study relative to improving the
15 conditions necessary to, and determining the feasibility of, legalizing industrial hemp for the use
16 of manufacturing in the commonwealth. The commission shall examine the viability of a legal
17 industrial hemp industry including, but not limited to: (1) the collection of existing data
18 concerning agricultural viability; (2) the collection of existing data concerning long-term
19 economic benefits to the farmers who produce the hemp and the persons who use hemp in the
20 production of materials; and (3) sites for the harvesting and the production of industrial hemp,
21 taking into account current uses and any other environmental factors.

22 (c) The commission shall submit a report of its findings together with legislation, if any,
23 to the chairs of the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture and the
24 chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means no later than February 1, 2011.