

HOUSE No. 823

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chris Walsh

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act regulating the cultivation of Industrial Hemp.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian R. Mannal</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 823

By Mr. Walsh of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 823) of Chris Walsh and others for legislation to regulate the cultivation of industrial hemp. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2758 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act regulating the cultivation of Industrial Hemp.

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

1

2 (1) Industrial hemp is a suitable crop for Massachusetts and its production will contribute
3 to the future viability of Massachusetts agriculture.

4 (2) Allowing industrial hemp production will provide farmers an opportunity to sell their
5 products to a marketplace that pays them a reasonable rate of return for their labor and capital
6 investments. Farmers in Canada report an \$800.00 per acre return for the crop.

7 (3) The infrastructure needed to process industrial hemp will result in increased business
8 opportunities and new jobs in our communities.

9 (4) As a food crop, industrial hemp seeds and oil produced from the seeds have high
10 nutritional value, including healthy fats and protein.

11 (5) As a fiber crop, industrial hemp can be used in the manufacture of products such as
12 clothing, building supplies, and animal bedding.

13 (6) As a fuel crop, industrial hemp seeds can be processed into bio diesel, and stalks can
14 be pelletized or flaked for burning or processed for cellulosic ethanol. Industrial hemp also
15 expands opportunities for on-farm renewable energy production.

16 (7) The production of industrial hemp can play a useful agronomic role in farm land
17 management as part of a crop rotation system.

18 INDUSTRIAL HEMP

19 INTENT

20 The intent of this act is to establish policy and procedures for growing industrial hemp
21 in Massachusetts so that farmers and other businesses in the Massachusetts agricultural industry
22 can take advantage of this market opportunity when federal regulations permit.

23

24 DEFINITIONS

25 As used in this chapter:

26 (1) “Grower” means any person or business entity licensed under this chapter by the
27 secretary of agriculture as an industrial hemp grower.

28 (2) “Hemp products” means all products made from industrial hemp, including but not
29 limited to cloth, cordage, fiber, food, fuel, paint, paper, particle board, plastics, seed, seed meal,
30 seed oil, and certified seed for cultivation if such seeds originate from industrial hemp varieties.

31 (3) “Industrial hemp” means varieties of the plant cannabis sativa having no more than
32 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol, whether growing or not, that are cultivated or possessed by a
33 licensed grower in compliance with this chapter.

34 (4) “Secretary” means the secretary of agriculture, food and markets.

35

36 INDUSTRIAL HEMP: AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT

37 Industrial hemp is an agricultural product which may be grown, produced, possessed, and
38 commercially traded in Massachusetts pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

39

40 LICENSING; APPLICATION

41 (a) Any person or business entity wishing to engage in the production of industrial hemp
42 must be licensed as an industrial hemp grower by the secretary. A license from the secretary
43 shall authorize industrial hemp production only at a site or sites specified by the license.

44 (b) A license from the secretary shall be valid for 24 months from the date of issuance
45 and may be renewed but shall not be transferable.

46 (c) Filing with the secretary documentation certifying that the seeds obtained for
47 planting are of a type and variety compliant with the maximum concentration of
48 tetrahydrocannabinol set forth in subdivision 560(3) of this chapter.

49 (d) Filing with the secretary the location and acreage of all parcels sown and other
50 field reference information as may be required by the secretary.

51 (e) To qualify for a license from the secretary, an applicant shall demonstrate to the
52 satisfaction of the secretary that the applicant has adopted methods to ensure the legal production
53 of industrial hemp, which at a minimum shall include:

54 (1) Ensuring that all parts of the industrial hemp plant that do not enter the stream of
55 commerce as hemp products are destroyed, incorporated into the soil, or otherwise properly
56 disposed of.

57 (2) Maintaining records that reflect compliance with the provisions of this chapter and
58 with all other state laws regulating the planting and cultivation of industrial hemp.

59 (f) Every grower shall maintain all production and sales records for at least three years.

60 (g) Every grower shall allow industrial hemp crops, throughout sowing, growing season,
61 harvest, storage, and processing, to be inspected by and at the discretion of the secretary or his or
62 her designee.

63

64 REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF LICENSE;

65 ENFORCEMENT

66 (a) The secretary may deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the license of any
67 grower who:

68 (1) Makes a false statement or misrepresentation on an application for a license or
69 renewal of a license.

70 (2) Fails to comply with or violates any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted
71 under it.

72

73 RULE MAKING AUTHORITY

74 The secretary shall adopt rules to provide for the implementation of this chapter, which
75 shall include rules to allow for the industrial hemp to be tested during growth for
76 tetrahydrocannabinol levels and to allow for supervision of the industrial hemp during sowing,
77 growing season, harvest, storage, and processing.

78 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

79 This act shall take effect upon passage, of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2009.