

# Joint Committee on Agriculture

## Bill Summary

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**Bill Number:** H.137

**Title:** An Act clarifying the definition of agriculture

**Sponsors:** Representatives Sabadosa of Northampton, Gómez of Easthampton, and LeBoeuf of Worcester; Senator Oliveira

**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:00 PM, B-2

**Reporting Date:** Saturday, July 12, 2025

**Similar Matters:** S.70 (Senator Oliveira – Identical)

### **Prior History:**

2023-2024: Filed as H.94; Referred to the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Accompanied a Study Order H.4522

2019-2020: Filed as H.3519; Referred to The Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy; Accompanied Study Order H.5042

### **CURRENT LAW:**

Section 1A of Chapter 128 of the Massachusetts General Laws defines “farming”, “agriculture” and “farmer”. The current definition for farming and agriculture includes traditional agricultural practices as well as the production of agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, or horticultural commodities, forest products, livestock, horses, and other domesticated animals for food or fur purposes, and forestry and lumbering. Marijuana cultivation is not included in these definitions and is regulated under Chapter 94I and 94G of the General Laws.

### **SUMMARY:**

This bill amends Section 1A of Chapter 128 by changing the definition of "agriculture" to include the farming of hemp and marijuana.