

Industrial Hemp Legislation Introduced in Michigan

By MIHEMP

Dated: Oct 02, 2010

A Resolution and two Industrial Hemp bills have been introduced into the Michigan House of Representatives The Resolution was referred to the Commerce Committee and the two House Bills were referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

On July 28th 2010 Michigan State Representative Lamar Lemmons Jr. introduced HR 314 and the Resolution was referred to the Commerce Committee. HR 314 is a resolution that asks the Federal Government to distinguish the difference between Industrial Hemp and Marijuana.

On September 22nd 2010 Mr. Lemmons submitted two more Bills into the legislature and both were referred to the Agriculture Committee. HB 6479 and HB 6480.

HB 6479 would form a committee to do a four year study on Industrial hemp and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of the crop.

HB 6480 would create a law allowing farmers to be licensed by the State of Michigan to grow and process Industrial Hemp without having to get the permit required by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Everett Swift, Executive Director of the Michigan Industrial Hemp and Education Project (MIHEMP) said, "We have been trying to get legislation introduced in Michigan for a long time and having a triple shot is very exciting.

I am glad to finally see someone in Michigan Government use some common sense and realize that Industrial Hemp can't be used as a drug.

The hard part now is getting the Committees involved to hold hearings on one or all three bills, With the election in just a few weeks the legislature will be going on break and that is it for the rest of the year. When the New legislature takes over in January all three pieces of legislation will be dead so time is very, very short.

We are asking everyone to contact the Chair of the Commerce Committee to ask for a hearing on HR314 and the chair of Committee on Agriculture to ask for hearings on HB 6479 and HB 6480.

I realize chances are very slim the legislature is going to act quick enough to pass any of them but I am not giving up all hope, if they die in Committee then I guess we start trying to educate a new batch of legislators and hope there is at least one with some common sense who isn't afraid of the word hemp"

Swift closed by saying, "I want to thank Representative Lemmons for doing the right thing and the folks at Vote Hemp for assisting us in our efforts to get the bills introduced, they provided a lot of legislative knowledge to the effort."

Under HB 6480 the Michigan State Department of Agriculture would issue licenses to a grower or processor of Industrial hemp. The license fee for a grower would be \$150.00 or \$5.00 per acre used to grow the crop, whichever is larger.

The license fee for a processor would be a fee of \$150.00 and person may submit a joint application for a fee of \$200.00

A grower must have at least 10 acres of land designated for the growing the crop and a license would not be issued to any person that has been convicted on any felony charges regarding the use, possession, or distribution of a controlled substance.

More information on MIHEMP and the legislation can be found on the web at MIHEMP's web site, www.mihemp.org, or facebook page at ww.facebook.com/mihemp.

Information is also available on the web at Vote Hemp's web site, <http://www.votehemp.com/state/michigan.html>.

If you would like to ask for a hearing on HR 314 contact Commerce Committee Chair, Robert B. Jones, (517) 373-1785 or email robertjones@house.mi.gov

For a hearing on HB 6479 and HB 6480 contact the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Mike Huckleberry, (517) 373-0834 or email MikeHuckleberry@house.mi.gov

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The Michigan Industrial Hemp Education and Marketing project, also known as MIHEMP is a Michigan nonprofit corporation working to expand Industrial Hemp as a natural resource for industrial and private enterprise in the State of Michigan.

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Email [Click to email author](#)
Phone 989-884-1139
Address 17535 Co Rd 451
Hillman, mi 49746
City/Town [Hillman](#)
State/Province [Michigan](#)
Zip 49746
Country [United States](#)