



## News Release

---

LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: 2.1.21

CONTACT: SENATOR CATHEY

PHONE: 225.342.0645

### **INDUSTRIAL HEMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO IMPROVE AND SUPPORT HEMP INDUSTRY IN LOUISIANA**

The Louisiana Industrial Hemp Advisory Committee (IHAC) met last week to discuss and approve recommended legislation relative to the regulation of industrial hemp, hemp products, and hemp-derived CBD Products. IHAC, co-chaired by Senate and House Agriculture Committee Chairmen, District 33 State Senator Stewart Cathey, Jr. and District 13 State Representative Jack McFarland, was created during the 2020 Regular Session to advise the legislature on how best to both regulate and support the new industry.

Since its first meeting in October 2020, members of the committee have heard testimony from and met with a variety of stakeholders, including state agency and industry representatives.

Senator Cathey said, "I am proud of the work that the committee has done to draft and approve a set of recommendations that would create a business-friendly environment for hemp producers and retailers while also maintaining high safety standards. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the legislature to move forward on these recommendations."

The committee approved eleven recommendations for the legislature to consider:

1. IHAC's primary mission is to create a business-friendly environment for producers, processors, manufacturers, and retailers by reducing and simplifying regulations, when appropriate, while maintaining high safety standards for consumers and businesses and a viable agricultural commodity for producers.
2. Research best practices from other states with successful industrial hemp and CBD industries and conduct a study of hemp regulatory programs.

3. Request the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) to familiarize producers with FSA reporting requirements and USDA crop insurance information and deadlines.
4. Request the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control to form a working group and meet periodically to streamline inter-jurisdictional issues, identify areas of concern, and collaborate on regulations.
5. Request the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control to submit an annual report to the committee on the regulation of industrial hemp and CBD, including the number of citations issued and civil or criminal penalties imposed.
6. Review federal and state regulations regarding the regulation of industrial hemp and CBD.
7. Request the appropriate entities to review the enforcement of CBD regulations and non-compliance by online and out-of-state vendors.
8. Study the feasibility of expanding authorized CBD products in Louisiana, including food and beverage products and certain CBD topicals such as those containing menthol, capsaicin, and camphor.
9. Research the possibility of hiring an agronomist who could educate interested growers, assist producers to optimize hemp production, and address agronomic challenges such as crop disease and seed quality issues.
10. Increase educational opportunities for industrial hemp producers through extension programs and webinars and establish a field event led by the LSU AgCenter and Southern University AgCenter as a venue to discuss industry advancements and challenges.
11. Identify effective strategies to promote the long-term growth and development of the Louisiana industrial hemp and industrial hemp-derived CBD industries.

If incorporated into legislation, the recommendations will be considered at the upcoming 2021 Regular Legislative Session, which begins on Monday, April 12, 2021.

###