

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill authorizes limited industrial hemp research conducted in accordance with the federal 2014 Farm Bill (Public Law 113-79). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) would be authorized to (1) grow or cultivate industrial hemp pursuant to a pilot program, and (2) authorize institutions of higher education to grow or cultivate industrial hemp either as part of MDA's pilot program or as is otherwise necessary to perform other agricultural or academic research.

Section

- 1** **Definitions.** Defines key terms including “commissioner” (of agriculture) and “industrial hemp.” The definition of “industrial hemp” is the same as the definition enacted as part of the federal 2014 Farm Bill.
- 2** **Pilot program; other research authorized.** Authorizes industrial hemp growth and cultivation by MDA and institutions of higher education. Requires MDA pre-approval of any site used to grow or cultivate industrial hemp. Authorizes MDA to adopt rules to govern the pilot program.
- 3** **Report required.** Requires the commissioner of agriculture to report on proposed legislation to implement sections 1 and 2, including fees to cover the commissioner's costs.
- 4** **Effective date.** Sections 1 and 2 are effective July 1, 2015.