

**Subject** Hemp; medical cannabis  
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**Date** March 4, 2019

## Overview

This bill would authorize Minnesota medical cannabis manufacturers to acquire hemp from Minnesota industrial hemp producers. A medical cannabis manufacturer could process hemp into an authorized form and distribute it in the same manner currently allowed for medical cannabis. Restrictions and requirements that apply under current law to medical cannabis would also apply to a medical cannabis manufacturer's acquisition, processing, transportation, and storage of industrial hemp.

Under current law, medical cannabis manufacturers are regulated by and must register with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH); hemp growers are regulated and licensed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

According to MDH, Minnesota's two registered medical cannabis manufacturers began distributing medical cannabis to registered patients on July 1, 2015. According to MDA, there are at least 40 licensees growing more than 850 acres of industrial hemp in the state.

In December of 2018, the United States Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (also known as Public Law 115-334, or the 2018 Farm Bill). Among other things, the law removed hemp from the federal controlled substances list and explicitly authorized farmers to grow it nationwide, subject to certain restrictions.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Agricultural crop; possession authorized.</b> Authorizes an MDA-licensed hemp producer to sell hemp products derived from industrial hemp grown in Minnesota to registered medical cannabis manufacturers.

Section	Description
2	<p><b>Hemp.</b></p> <p>Defines this term for purposes of the medical cannabis statutes. This definition would be similar to the existing definition of “industrial hemp” in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 18K. The chapter 18K definition governs MDA’s oversight and licensing of industrial hemp growers.</p>
3	<p><b>Reports.</b></p> <p>Requires that reports from MDH to the existing Task Force on Medical Cannabis Therapeutic Research include (1) any changes in federal law or regulatory restrictions regarding hemp, and (2) the Minnesota market for hemp products that can be used for medicinal purposes.</p>
4	<p><b>Manufacturer; requirements.</b></p> <p>Allows a registered medical cannabis manufacturer to obtain hemp from an MDA-licensed hemp grower if the hemp was grown in Minnesota. Allows the manufacturer to process the hemp into any form allowed under current law for medical cannabis, i.e., a liquid, oil, pill, vaporized delivery method, or other MDH-approved delivery method. Subjects this hemp to the same quality control, security, testing, and other requirements that currently apply to medical cannabis. Requires a manufacturer’s operating documents to include procedures to prevent hemp theft as well as procedures for the delivery and transportation of hemp between growers and the manufacturer. Authorizes MDH to inspect MDA-licensed hemp farmers who supply hemp to MDH-registered medical cannabis manufacturers. Requires medical cannabis manufacturers to verify that their hemp suppliers are licensed by MDA.</p>
5	<p><b>Manufacturer; production.</b></p> <p>Extends existing medical cannabis supply and security requirements to hemp in the possession of a medical cannabis manufacturer.</p>
6	<p><b>Transportation of medical cannabis; staffing.</b></p> <p>Extends existing medical cannabis transportation requirements to hemp.</p>
7	<p><b>Data practices.</b></p> <p>Authorizes MDH and MDA to enter into data sharing agreements for purposes of verifying that medical cannabis manufacturers acquire hemp from licensed growers.</p>
8	<p><b>Impact assessment.</b></p> <p>Requires an existing task force that assesses the impact of medical cannabis therapeutic research to also evaluate the impact of hemp used for therapeutic purposes.</p>



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