

House Resolution

No. 32

Introduced by Assembly Member Strom-Martin

August 16, 1999

House Resolution No. 32—Relative to industrial hemp.

1 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp was first domesticated
2 10,000 years ago; was required in 1619 to be grown by all
3 farmers in Jamestown, Virginia; was legal tender in
4 America and accepted as payment for taxes from 1631 to
5 the early 1800's; was a cash crop grown on the plantations
6 of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson; was grown
7 in America and regulated by the Department of
8 Agriculture until 1937; and was the domestic source of
9 maritime rope during the 1942 to 1945 World War II
10 "Hemp for Victory" campaign; and

11 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp provided the ropes and
12 sails for Christopher Columbus' ships and the paper on
13 which the Declaration of Independence was first drafted;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp has been used to produce
16 more than 25,000 products; and

17 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp is produced by 30 nations,
18 including Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Romania,
19 Australia, and China, none of which are classified by the
20 federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) as
21 drug-producing countries; and

1 WHEREAS, The DEA permits industrial hemp to be
2 grown under strict rules and regulations that are
3 currently being revised; and

4 WHEREAS, The importation of industrial hemp is
5 permitted by the General Agreement on Tariffs and
6 Trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, North Dakota has legalized industrial
9 hemp for commercial farming; Hawaii and Minnesota
10 have legalized test crops of industrial hemp; the
11 Legislatures of Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas,
12 Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New
13 Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota,
14 Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin are
15 considering the legalization of industrial hemp; and the
16 City and County of San Francisco is currently drafting an
17 ordinance to permit its residents to grow industrial hemp;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp can be easily
20 distinguished from marijuana by appearance, cultivation
21 methods, and chemical analysis because industrial hemp
22 is a nonintoxicating, benign form of the cannabis sativa
23 plant that contains less than 1 percent
24 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), while marijuana contains
25 5 to 20 percent THC; and industrial hemp seeds are
26 planted to yield more than 1,000 stalks per two square
27 yards, while only one marijuana plant can be grown in the
28 same size plot; and industrial hemp matures in 70 to 120
29 days and is harvested before it flowers, while marijuana
30 is cultivated for its flowertops and takes 120 to 180 days to
31 mature; and, when grown together, industrial hemp will
32 pollinate marijuana, reducing its THC content to a
33 nonintoxicating level; and

34 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp thrives without
35 herbicides, reinvigorates the soil, requires less water than
36 cotton, matures in three to four months, and can
37 potentially yield four times as much paper per acre as
38 trees, building materials that are twice as strong as wood
39 and concrete, textile fiber that is up to eight times as
40 strong as cotton, better oil and paint than petroleum,



1 clean-burning diesel fuel, biodegradable plastics, and
2 more digestible protein per acre than any other food
3 source; and

4 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp can be planted and
5 harvested in California several times per year, and gross
6 \$200 to \$600 per acre per harvest at current market prices;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, All industrial hemp raw materials
9 currently must be imported to manufacture products
10 that are distributed by, and sold in, more than 60 specialty
11 shops and 250 general stores throughout California, with
12 national sales and exports exceeding \$100 million per
13 year; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,*
15 That the Assembly finds and declares that industrial
16 hemp is a vital, sustainable, renewable resource for
17 building materials, cloth, cordage, fiber, food, fuel,
18 industrial chemicals, oil, paint, paper, plastics, seed, yarn,
19 and many other useful products; and be it further

20 *Resolved,* That the Assembly finds and declares that the
21 domestic production of industrial hemp can help protect
22 California's environment, contribute to the growth of the
23 state economy, and be regulated in a manner that will not
24 interfere with the enforcement of marijuana laws; and be
25 it further

26 *Resolved,* That the Assembly finds and declares that the
27 Legislature should consider action to revise the legal
28 status of industrial hemp to allow for its growth in
29 California as an agricultural and industrial crop; and be it
30 further

31 *Resolved,* That the Assembly finds and declares that the
32 Legislature should consider directing the University of
33 California, the California State University, and other state
34 agencies to prepare studies in conjunction with private
35 industry on the cultivation, processing, and marketing of
36 industrial hemp.

O

