

# HOUSE BILL No. 6479

September 22, 2010, Introduced by Rep. Lemmons and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

A bill to create a commission regarding industrial hemp use; to provide for certain powers and duties for state agencies; and to provide for the issuance of certain reports and recommendations.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. The industrial hemp study commission is created within  
2 the department of agriculture.

3           Sec. 2. (1) The commission shall consist of the following 13  
4 members, appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of  
5 the senate:

6           (a) Two members appointed by the governor.

7           (b) Two members appointed from a list submitted by the  
8 majority leader of the senate.

1 (c) Two members appointed from a list submitted by the speaker  
2 of the house of representatives.

3 (d) The chairs of the committees dealing with agriculture in  
4 both chambers.

5 (e) The directors of the departments of agriculture and  
6 energy, labor, and economic growth as ex office members.

7 (f) Three members appointed from a list submitted by the  
8 Michigan farm bureau or other predominant agricultural trade  
9 association.

10 (2) The members first appointed to the commission shall be  
11 appointed within 60 days after the effective date of this act.

12 Sec. 3. (1) Members shall serve for terms of 3 years or until  
13 a successor is appointed, whichever is later, except that the  
14 members who are the chairs of legislative committees shall serve  
15 for 1 year or the remainder of their term as committee chair,  
16 whichever is longer, 6 members shall serve for 2 years, and the  
17 remainder shall serve for 3 years.

18 (2) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the governor shall  
19 make an appointment for the unexpired term in the same manner as  
20 the original appointment.

21 (3) The governor may remove a member of the commission for  
22 incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or  
23 nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause.

24 Sec. 4. (1) The first meeting of the commission shall be  
25 called by the director of the department of agriculture. At the  
26 first meeting, the commission shall elect from among its members a  
27 chairperson and other officers as it considers necessary or

1 appropriate. After the first meeting, the commission shall meet at  
2 least quarterly, or more frequently at the call of the chairperson  
3 or if requested by 7 or more members.

4 (2) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a  
5 quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the  
6 commission. A majority of the members present and serving are  
7 required for official action of the commission.

8 (3) The business that the commission may perform shall be  
9 conducted at a public meeting of the commission held in compliance  
10 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

11 (4) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or  
12 retained by the commission in the performance of an official  
13 function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442,  
14 MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

15 (5) Members of the commission shall serve without  
16 compensation. However, members of the commission may be reimbursed  
17 for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance  
18 of their official duties as members of the commission.

19 Sec. 5. (1) The commission shall do all of the following:

20 (a) Conduct a review of scientific and business literature on  
21 the industrial uses of hemp including, but not limited to, use as  
22 alternative fuel and motor oil; uses of omega-3 rich industrial  
23 hemp seed and oil in snack foods, body care products, and food  
24 supplements; uses of its fiber as raw materials for construction  
25 paper and fabric; and uses in the manufacture of recyclable vehicle  
26 parts.

27 (b) Conduct a review of scientific literature on the different

1 types of hemp and how industrial hemp differs from the hemp plant  
2 used in illegal drug trade.

3 (c) Conduct a review of the economic literature regarding the  
4 economic benefits of, and the markets for, products utilizing  
5 industrial hemp.

6 (d) Conduct a review of actions taken by the federal  
7 government and other states allowing the use of industrial hemp  
8 designed for industrial purposes.

9 (e) Evaluate the economic opportunities for Michigan that  
10 could result from producing industrial hemp as a farm product and  
11 for industrial use.

12 (f) Examine other issues that the commission determines  
13 relevant to the use of industrial hemp.

14 (g) Develop findings and recommendations related to the topics  
15 listed in subdivisions (a) to (f), including any legislative  
16 proposals determined appropriate.

17 (2) The commission shall issue a report of its findings and  
18 recommendations to the legislature not later than 4 years after the  
19 effective date of this act.