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NO. 176. AN ACT RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP.

(H.783)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. INDUSTRIAL HEMP RESEARCH

(a) The commissioner of agriculture, food and markets and the University of Vermont are requested to undertake research, of a minimum of two years in duration, of industrial hemp production in the state. The research shall be mutually agreed upon by the commissioner and the university, and shall include:

(1) Analysis of market economic conditions affecting the development of an industrial hemp industry in the state of Vermont.

(2) Analysis of whether Vermont soils and growing conditions are appropriate for economic levels of industrial hemp production.

(3) Analysis of research undertaken elsewhere in the world regarding minimum THC levels obtainable in industrial hemp production.

(4) Analysis of possible law enforcement aspects of industrial hemp production in Vermont.

(b) The commissioner and the university shall cooperatively seek funds from both public and private sources to implement this section.

(c) By January 15, 1997, and again by January 15, 1998, the commissioner and the University of Vermont shall jointly report on the status of research authorized by this section to the house and senate committees on agriculture and judiciary. The reports shall include recommendations for any legislative authorization of industrial hemp production in Vermont.

Sec. 2. STATE-FEDERAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The commissioner is authorized to collaborate with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States Department of Justice (USDEA) on the development of a memorandum of understanding between the Vermont department of agriculture, food and markets and the USDEA regarding the possible future industrial hemp production in Vermont.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

May 1, 1996 - Became Law Without Governor's Signature

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