

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 54

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CONNIE WAGNER

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Urges President and Congress to enact “Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2011” and each NJ member of Congress to sponsor the legislation and work for its enactment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/7/2012)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the President and Congress of
2 the United States to enact the “Industrial Hemp Farming Act of
3 2011” and each member of the New Jersey Congressional
4 delegation to sponsor the legislation and work for its enactment.
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6 **WHEREAS**, Industrial hemp has been an important resource in the
7 history and economy of this nation from pre-colonial times through
8 World War II; and
9 **WHEREAS**, The sails and ropes on Christopher Columbus’ ships and
10 the paper on which the Declaration of Independence was drafted
11 were made from industrial hemp; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Farmers in the nation’s first settlement in Jamestown,
13 Virginia were required to grow hemp in 1619 and it was legal
14 tender accepted as payment for taxes from 1631 through the early
15 1800s; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Industrial hemp was a cash crop grown by George
17 Washington and Thomas Jefferson on their plantations, a domestic
18 source for maritime rope during the World War II “Hemp for
19 Victory” campaign from 1942 to 1945, and was regulated by the
20 U.S. Department of Agriculture until 1937; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Industrial hemp is produced by 30 nations, including
22 Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Romania, Australia, and China,
23 and the importation of industrial hemp is permitted by the General
24 Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the North American Free
25 Trade Agreement, without classification as a controlled substance
26 or drug; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Industrial hemp can be distinguished from marijuana by
28 appearance, cultivation methods, and chemical analysis as a non-
29 intoxicating form of the Cannabis sativa plant containing less than
30 one percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the chemical associated
31 with the intoxicating effects of marijuana; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Industrial hemp is a renewable resource for building
33 materials, cloth, cordage, fiber, food, fuel, industrial chemicals, oil,
34 paint, paper, plastics, seed, yarn, and many other useful products;
35 and
36 **WHEREAS**, Industrial hemp has great potential for bolstering
37 agriculture and the environment in this time of economic crisis and
38 global warming, requires less water to grow than cotton while
39 yielding textile fibers that are eight times as strong, can be
40 cultivated without the expense of herbicides, can potentially yield
41 four times as much paper per acre as trees, and provides clean-
42 burning diesel fuel, biodegradable plastics, building materials twice
43 as strong as wood and concrete, and better oil and paint than
44 petroleum; and
45 **WHEREAS**, As a result of federal laws and regulations, industrial hemp
46 raw materials that could be grown domestically for the benefit of
47 American businesses are currently, and must be, entirely imported,

1 with national purchases and imports exceeding \$100 million
2 annually; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The “Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2011” was
4 introduced in the 112th United States Congress as H.R.1831; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Enactment of this legislation would redefine industrial
6 hemp as the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. with a delta-9
7 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of 0.3 percent or less on a dry
8 weight basis, would remove industrial hemp from regulation as a
9 controlled substance, and would allow its cultivation, processing
10 and distribution for the many non-drug related uses of hemp, the
11 economic benefits of which are currently lost to countries that
12 export hemp into the United States; now, therefore,

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14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
15 Jersey:

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17 1. The President and Congress of the United States are urged to
18 enact the “Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2011” for the economic
19 and environmental vitality of the nation.

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21 2. Each member of the Congressional delegation from the State
22 of New Jersey is urged to sponsor this legislation and to work for its
23 passage and enactment.

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25 3. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
26 Speaker of the General Assembly, and attested to by the Clerk
27 thereof, shall be forwarded to the President of the United States, the
28 Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House
29 of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S.
30 Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, and each member of the
31 United States Congress elected from the State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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36 This resolution urges the President and Congress of the United
37 States to enact the “Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2011” for the
38 economic and environmental vitality of the nation, and urges each
39 member of the New Jersey Congressional delegation to sign on as a
40 sponsor and to work for its passage and enactment.

41 The “Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2011” would:

42 1) redefine industrial hemp as the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. with a
43 delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of 0.3 percent or less on
44 a dry weight basis;

45 2) remove industrial hemp from regulation as a controlled
46 substance; and

47 3) allow its cultivation, processing and distribution for the many
48 non-drug related uses of hemp.

AR54 WAGNER, GUSCIORA

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1 It is currently estimated that the United States loses about \$100
2 million annually to countries that export hemp into the United
3 States.