



HR0707

LRB102 25680 MST 34974 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois is dedicated to cannabis equity in the regulation of industrial hemp, especially for those who have been negatively impacted by the criminalization of cannabis; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois seeks to ensure the inclusion of two groups of citizens in those eligible to obtain industrial help licenses, those citizens with felony records related to cannabis and those from areas in the State that have been disproportionately impacted by the criminalization of cannabis; and

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WHEREAS, In 2020, the ACLU reported that Illinois had the third highest rate of bias in cannabis arrests in the United States; and

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WHEREAS, In 2017, researchers estimated that 8% of the U.S. population has felony convictions, and 33% of the African American male population has a felony conviction; and

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WHEREAS, A study conducted by the Center for the Study of Economic Liberty at Arizona State University examined the relationship between occupational licensing laws and new crime recidivism; states with the highest occupational burdens,

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1 including prohibitions on ex-prisoners receiving licenses, saw  
2 an increase in three-year new crime recidivism of 9.4% between  
3 1997 and 2007; this is in comparison to a 2.6% average increase  
4 in survey states and a 4.2% decrease in states with the lowest  
5 occupational licensing burden; and

6 WHEREAS, A Blue Ribbon Commission report on marijuana  
7 regulations for California summarized that: "If a strategy of  
8 legislation is to bring current participants in the illicit  
9 market who are willing to comply with regulations into the  
10 legal market, then categorical exclusions of people who have  
11 in the past or are currently in the illicit market would be  
12 counterproductive, leaving many to continue working in the  
13 illicit market."; and

14 WHEREAS, Industrial hemp comes from the cannabis sativa  
15 plant; hemp and cannabis both derive from the cannabis sativa  
16 species and contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC); hemp is used  
17 in clothing, paper, animal feed, and textiles; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2015, the Industrial Hemp Pilot Program became  
19 effective in Illinois, which allowed researchers and  
20 institutions of higher education to grow hemp for educational  
21 purposes; and

22 WHEREAS, The 2018 federal Farm Bill allows farmers and

1 others to plant and process hemp nationally and allowed for  
2 the interstate transportation of hemp products; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2018 Farm Bill prohibits a person convicted  
4 of a "felony relating to a controlled substance under State or  
5 federal law" from producing hemp for a 10-year period  
6 following the date of the conviction; and

7 WHEREAS, The prohibition stated in the Illinois Hemp Plan,  
8 approved by the USDA, only applies to a person "who has  
9 executive managerial control" of the entity; and

10 WHEREAS, If the Illinois Department of Agriculture wants  
11 to maintain primary regulatory control over its hemp program,  
12 the Illinois Department of Agriculture must follow the federal  
13 requirements of the 2018 Farm Bill; and

14 WHEREAS, The exclusion of persons with felony charges  
15 related to a controlled substance is contrary to Illinois'  
16 goal to include those principally affected by the  
17 criminalization of cannabis; and

18 WHEREAS, A Farm Bill is due for consideration by the U.S.  
19 Congress in 2022; Congress can make changes to laws governing  
20 the cultivation and processing of hemp authorized by the 2018  
21 Farm Bill in order to allow Illinois to continue to promote the

1 inclusion of those with past felonies for participation in its  
2 Industrial Hemp Program; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we affirm the State's dedication to cannabis equity and  
6 respectfully ask members of the U.S. Congress to allow persons  
7 with felonies related to controlled substances to obtain  
8 industrial hemp licenses; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 delivered to all members of the Illinois Congressional  
11 Delegation, the United States Department of Agriculture, and  
12 the Attorney General of the United States.