

Chapter 456

**(House Bill 803)**

AN ACT concerning

**Agriculture – Industrial Hemp – Legalization**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a person to plant, grow, harvest, possess, process, sell, or buy industrial hemp in the State; requiring a person to register with the Department of Agriculture before planting or growing industrial hemp; altering the definition of “marijuana” for purposes of certain provisions of law relating to controlled dangerous substances to exclude industrial hemp; making this Act subject to a certain contingency; providing for the termination of a certain provision of this Act; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the legalization of industrial hemp in the State.

BY adding to

Article – Agriculture

Section 14–101 to be under the new title “Title 14. Industrial Hemp”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2007 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 5–101(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 5–101(r)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Agriculture**

**TITLE 14. INDUSTRIAL HEMP.**

**14–101.**

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, “INDUSTRIAL HEMP” MEANS THE PLANT CANNABIS SATIVA L. AND ANY PART OF SUCH PLANT, WHETHER GROWING OR NOT, WITH A**

**DELTA-9-TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL CONCENTRATION THAT DOES NOT EXCEED 0.3% ON A DRY WEIGHT BASIS.**

**(B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON MAY PLANT, GROW, HARVEST, POSSESS, PROCESS, SELL, OR BUY INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN THE STATE.**

**(C) BEFORE PLANTING OR GROWING INDUSTRIAL HEMP, A PERSON SHALL REGISTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT.**

### **Article – Criminal Law**

5-101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(r) (1) “Marijuana” means:

(i) all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether or not the plant is growing;

(ii) the seeds of the plant;

(iii) the resin extracted from the plant; and

(iv) each compound, manufactured product, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or its resin.

(2) “Marijuana” does not include:

(i) the mature stalks of the plant;

(ii) fiber produced from the mature stalks;

(iii) oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant;

(iv) except for resin, any other compound, manufactured product, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks, fiber, oil, or cake; [or]

(v) the sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination;

**OR**

**(VI) THE PLANT *CANNABIS SATIVA L.* AND ANY PART OF SUCH PLANT, WHETHER GROWING OR NOT, WITH A DELTA-9-TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL CONCENTRATION THAT DOES NOT EXCEED 0.3% ON A DRY WEIGHT BASIS.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the taking effect of the federal Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2015 or another federal law that delegates authority over industrial hemp to the states or authorizes a person to plant, grow, harvest, possess, process, sell, and buy industrial hemp. The Maryland Department of Agriculture shall notify the Department of Legislative Services within 5 days after the effective date of a federal law delegating authority to the states or authorizing the farming, possession, processing, and sale of industrial hemp. If a federal law does not take effect on or before October 1, 2030, this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

~~SECTION 2. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That § 14-101(e) of the Agriculture Article, as enacted by this Act, shall remain effective for a period of 7 years and, at the end of September 30, 2022, October 1, 2030, with no further action required by the General Assembly, § 14-101(c) of the Agriculture Article, as enacted by this Act, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

~~SECTION 3. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.~~

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.**