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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5476 (as amended by House "A")\***

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF LEGALIZING INDUSTRIAL HEMP.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the agriculture, consumer protection, and economic and community development commissioners to study the feasibility of legalizing industrial hemp to (1) encourage economic development and (2) increase new businesses in Connecticut. The commissioners must first consult with the attorney general.

Under the bill, each commissioner must study a different aspect of legalizing industrial hemp. The agricultural commissioner must study its production, the consumer protection commissioner must study its possession, and the economic and community development commissioner must study its sale.

The bill also requires the consumer protection commissioner to report, by January 1, 2015, to the Commerce, Environment, and General Law committees on the commissioners' recommendations for:

1. establishing a statutory definition of "industrial hemp" to distinguish it from marijuana, based on a percentage of proposed tetrahydrocannabinol (the active compound in marijuana);
2. exempting industrial hemp from the law's definition of "controlled substance"; and
3. creating a licensing system for growers and sellers.

The bill also makes a technical change to an internal reference in sSB 299, An Act Concerning Heating Fuel Delivery Fees, Charges and Surcharges and Prepaid Guaranteed Heating Fuel Price Plans, as

amended by Senate "A" and passed in concurrence by the House.

\*House Amendment "A" (1) adds the agriculture commissioner to the feasibility study and requires the commissioners to study different aspects of industrial hemp; (2) requires consultation with the attorney general; (3) adds the Environment Committee to the committees that must receive the report; and (4) makes other minor and technical changes, including the correction to sSB 299.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for the correction to sSB 299, which takes effect July 1, 2014.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2014)