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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 598**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUBMISSION OF A PLAN FOR THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP IN CONNECTICUT.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the state Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner to submit a hemp production plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for approval under the federal 2018 Agriculture Improvement Act, known as the 2018 farm bill, and any related regulations.

Once the USDA approves the state's plan, the bill requires the DoAg commissioner to adopt regulations establishing a licensing program for growing, cultivating, producing, and processing industrial hemp in Connecticut. The program must be consistent with the approved plan.

Under the bill, the state regulations must allow for (1) tracking and inspecting property used for growing, cultivating, producing, or processing industrial hemp, (2) testing plants and products, and (3) disposal methods for plants and products exceeding the required tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) level. The regulations must also establish license fees and provide for license renewal, suspension, and revocation. Any license suspension or revocation action by the commissioner must allow a hearing for the licensee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***2018 Farm Bill***

On December 20, 2018, the president signed into law the 2018 Agriculture Improvement Act (P.L. 115-334), known as the 2018 farm bill. Among other things, the farm bill removes hemp from the definition of marijuana under the federal Controlled Substances Act (§

12619). It also allows states to regulate hemp production, but only under an enforcement plan the state agriculture department submits to USDA for approval (§ 10113). States without a USDA-approved plan must follow federal hemp production laws and associated USDA regulations.

The farm bill requires a state hemp production plan to include, among other things, information on (1) hemp production locations, (2) procedures for inspecting producers, (3) testing procedures for THC levels, and (4) disposing of plants or products with excessive THC concentrations.

***Related Bill***

sSB 893, reported favorably by the Environment Committee, requires the DoAg commissioner to adopt regulations by July 1, 2020, establishing a pilot program for growing or cultivating industrial hemp in Connecticut in accordance with federal law.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/08/2019)