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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 893**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR HEMP PRODUCTION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the state Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner, by July 1, 2020, to adopt regulations establishing an industrial hemp pilot program in Connecticut in accordance with federal law. Under the bill and federal law, “industrial hemp” means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of the plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.

The pilot program must study the growth, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp, and ensure that hemp growth and cultivation is done only at sites certified by, and registered with, DoAg.

The bill requires the commissioner, when developing regulations, to review and incorporate provisions of the Kentucky Department of Agricultural Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program 2017 Policy Guide as she deems appropriate and consistent with federal law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Federal Law***

The federal 2014 Agricultural Act (P.L. 113-79), known as the 2014 farm bill, allows a higher education institution or state agriculture agency to grow or cultivate industrial hemp under a pilot program or other research program if also allowed by state law (§ 7606). Under such a program, any site used for growing or cultivating industrial hemp must be certified by, and registered with, the state’s agriculture

department.

The federal 2018 Agriculture Improvement Act (P.L. 115-334), known as the 2018 farm bill, allows states to regulate hemp production, but only under an enforcement plan the state agriculture department submits to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its approval (§ 10113).

***Related Bill***

sSB 598, reported favorably by the Environment Committee, requires DoAg to submit a hemp production plan to the USDA for approval under the 2018 farm bill and adopt regulations establishing a licensing program for growing, cultivating, producing, and processing industrial hemp.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/08/2019)