87R17856 BEF-F

By:  King of Uvalde, Guillen H.B. No. 3948

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3948:

By:  Burns C.S.H.B. No. 3948

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the production and regulation of hemp and consumable hemp products; authorizing a fee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Section 121.003, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e)  Not later than the 90th day after the date a change to a state statute, federal statute, or federal regulation takes effect, the department shall submit to the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture any amendments to the state plan necessary to incorporate and implement the change.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter A, Chapter 122, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 122.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 122.005.  HEMP RESEARCH BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. (a) The department shall issue a license to an institution of higher education in this state that requests the license.

(b)  Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or department rule other than Subsection (c), an institution of higher education conducting research involving hemp:

(1)  is not required to pay a fee collected by the department under this chapter;

(2)  is not required to obtain from the department a lot crop permit or other permit for each location where hemp is grown;

(3)  is not required to obtain preharvest testing under Section 122.153 before harvesting plants, except as provided by Subsection (c);

(4)  may use hemp seed and cultivate and handle plants grown from seed that is not certified or approved under Section 122.252; and

(5)  is not subject to Section 122.403(c) or (d).

(c)  An institution of higher education may not sell or transfer hemp to another person unless the institution complies with the requirements of Sections 122.153 and 122.356.

SECTION 3.  Section 122.051, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c)  Not later than the 90th day after the date a change to this chapter, a federal statute, or a federal regulation takes effect, the department shall propose any rules necessary to incorporate and implement the change.

SECTION 4.  Section 122.151, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g)  A laboratory that performs testing required by this chapter shall report the delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration, the total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration, and the concentration of any other federally regulated cannabinoid of the sample on a dry weight basis and the measurement of uncertainty in the test result. The measurement of uncertainty must comply with International Organization for Standardization ISO/IEC 17025 or a comparable or successor standard. For purposes of this chapter, the delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of the sample is the lowest possible value given that measurement of uncertainty.

SECTION 5.  Section 122.201(a), Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  A license holder shall harvest the plants from a plot not later than the 30th [~~20th~~] day after the date a preharvest sample is collected under Section 122.154 unless field conditions delay harvesting or the department authorizes the license holder to delay harvesting. This subsection does not prohibit the license holder from harvesting the plants immediately after the preharvest sample is collected.

SECTION 6.  Subchapter E, Chapter 122, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 122.203 to read as follows:

Sec. 122.203.  HARVEST WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED. (a) A person whose license is suspended or revoked after planting hemp plants may obtain preharvest or postharvest testing under Subchapter D and may harvest the plants under Section 122.201 in the same manner as a license holder.

(b)  While a person's license is suspended or revoked, the department may:

(1)  prohibit the person from selling or using plants harvested under Subsection (a); or

(2)  if the delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of the plants is not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis, allow the person to sell or use plants harvested under Subsection (a) in the same manner as a license holder under Section 122.202.

(c)  A person whose license is reinstated may sell or use plants harvested under Subsection (a) as provided by Section 122.202.

SECTION 7.  The heading to Subchapter F, Chapter 122, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. HEMP SEED AND PLANTS

SECTION 8.  Section 122.252, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 122.252.  CERTIFICATION OR APPROVAL OF SEED AND PLANT VARIETIES. (a) The department or an entity authorized to certify seed and plants under Chapter 62 shall identify and certify or approve varieties of seed and plants confirmed to produce hemp.

(b)  The department or entity may not certify or approve a variety of hemp seed or plant if the variety [~~seed~~] is tested and confirmed to produce a plant that has delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. For purposes of this subsection, the department may partner with a private entity or an institution of higher education to test seed and plant varieties for the purpose of certification or approval under this section.

(c)  The department may authorize the importation of hemp seed and plant varieties certified in accordance with the law of another state or jurisdiction that requires as a condition of certification that hemp be produced in compliance with:

(1)  that state or jurisdiction's plan approved by the United States Department of Agriculture under 7 U.S.C. Section 1639p; or

(2)  a plan established under 7 U.S.C. Section 1639q if that plan applies in the state or jurisdiction.

(d)  The department shall maintain and make available to license holders a list of hemp seed and plant varieties [~~seeds~~] certified or approved under this section.

SECTION 9.  Subchapter F, Chapter 122, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 122.254 to read as follows:

Sec. 122.254.  SEEDLINGS AND OTHER IMMATURE PLANTS. (a) In this section, "immature plant" means a hemp seedling, clone, or cutting that requires substantial cultivation and further growth before the beginning of the period under Section 122.201(a) when the plant may be harvested.

(b)  A person may transport into this state, and a license holder may obtain and cultivate, immature plants propagated outside this state if the plants are accompanied by shipping documentation that:

(1)  complies with any requirements of the state of origin;

(2)  indicates the grower of the immature plants is licensed by the state of origin;

(3)  lists the recipient license holder in this state and the recipient's license number; and

(4)  shows that the variety of the immature plants is certified or approved under Section 122.252.

(c)  A license holder may obtain and cultivate immature plants propagated in this state by another license holder if the plants are accompanied by the shipping certificate or cargo manifest required by Section 122.055 that shows that the variety of the immature plants is certified or approved under Section 122.252. The immature plants are not subject to preharvest testing under Section 122.153.

(d)  A license holder may transplant immature plants propagated by the license holder from one plot to another plot controlled by the license holder. The department by rule shall waive the requirement that a license holder obtain a lot crop permit for and may not require a license holder to pay any fee for a greenhouse or other location used to propagate immature plants if the plants are transplanted to another plot controlled by the license holder and are not sold or transferred to another person. The department by rule may waive the requirement that a person obtain a shipping certificate or cargo manifest to transplant immature plants from one plot to another plot operated by the license holder.

SECTION 10.  Subchapter A, Chapter 443, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 443.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 443.005.  CONSUMABLE HEMP PRODUCTS ACCOUNT. (a) The consumable hemp products account is an account in the general revenue fund administered by the department.

(b)  The account consists of:

(1)  appropriations of money to the account by the legislature;

(2)  public or private gifts, grants, or donations, including federal funds, received for the account;

(3)  fees collected under this chapter or under Chapter 431 as it applies to consumable hemp products;

(4)  interest and income earned on the investment of money in the account;

(5)  penalties for violations of this chapter or Chapter 431 as it applies to consumable hemp products; and

(6)  funds from any other source deposited in the account.

(c)  The department may accept appropriations and gifts, grants, or donations from any source to administer and enforce this chapter and Chapter 431 as it applies to consumable hemp products. Money received under this subsection shall be deposited in the account.

(d)  Money in the account may be appropriated only to the department for the administration and enforcement of this chapter and Chapter 431 as it applies to consumable hemp products.

SECTION 11.  Section 443.103, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 443.103.  APPLICATION; ISSUANCE. An individual or establishment may apply for a license under this subchapter by submitting an application to the department on a form and in the manner prescribed by the department. The application must be accompanied by:

(1)  the physical address [~~a legal description~~] of each location where the applicant intends to process hemp or manufacture consumable hemp products [~~and the global positioning system coordinates for the perimeter of each location~~];

(2)  written consent from the applicant or the property owner if the applicant is not the property owner allowing the department, the Department of Public Safety, and any other state or local law enforcement agency to enter onto all premises where hemp is processed or consumable hemp products are manufactured to conduct a physical inspection or to ensure compliance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter;

(3)  any fees required by the department to be submitted with the application; and

(4)  any other information required by department rule.

SECTION 12.  Subchapter C, Chapter 443, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 443.106 to read as follows:

Sec. 443.106.  CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP. The department may modify a license held by an establishment in the event of a change in ownership of the establishment if:

(1)  the current owner and the new owner apply to the department for the modification;

(2)  the new owner is not ineligible to hold the license under Section 443.102; and

(3)  one party to the transaction submits any license modification fee to the department.

SECTION 13.  Section 443.152, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d)  The executive commissioner by rule may exclude a substance that is generally recognized as having no risk of contaminating a finished consumable hemp product, including a microorganism or other substance that is inevitably destroyed or removed while processing or manufacturing the product, from the testing required under Section 443.151.

SECTION 14.  Section 443.201, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c)  A person may transport and deliver a consumable hemp product to a consumer who purchased the product in compliance with this chapter. The person transporting and delivering the consumable hemp product is not required to:

(1)  obtain a license under Section 443.101, unless the person processes or manufactures the product delivered; or

(2)  register under Section 443.2025, unless the person sells the product delivered.

SECTION 15.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.