

Alaska State Legislature

SESSION ADDRESS:

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-465-3743
800-565-3743

**INTERIM ADDRESS:**

600 E Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
907-376-3725
Sen.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov

Senator Shelley Hughes

Senate District F—Palmer, Chugiak, Peters Creek, Eklutna, Fairview Loop, Gateway, Butte, Lazy Mountain

SB 171 – Industrial Hemp

Sponsor Statement

During the 30th Alaska State Legislature Senate Bill 6 passed unanimously and established an Industrial Hemp Pilot Program in Alaska. Legislators correctly identified the potential for Alaska Grown industrial hemp and decided that our state should enter the global marketplace for this diverse agricultural product.

In 2018, after Senate Bill 6 was signed into law, the United States Congress passed the 2018 Farm Bill which changed the federal requirements for states to grow industrial hemp. Senate Bill 171 makes the changes necessary for Alaska to establish and maintain an Industrial Hemp Program into the future. The legislative changes proposed in Senate Bill 171 are needed by October 31, 2020; otherwise Alaskans will lose the ability to start growing hemp and manufacturing hemp related products in the state and would need to wait at least an additional year until a similar bill would be passed by a future legislature.

Passage of Senate Bill 171 will ensure federal compliance, provide agricultural and manufacturing business opportunities for hemp and help diversify our state's economy.

Staff contact: Buddy Whitt, (907) 465-5025