

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 27 – 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 27 makes the necessary adjustments in statute so that Alaska will remain compliant with federal law and maintain an Industrial Hemp Program into the future.

Senate Bill 27 makes following changes in current statute necessary to comply with federal law and continue the Industrial Hemp program:

- The Department of Natural Resources may develop an Industrial Hemp Program and submit that program plan to the USDA for approval.
- Once approved, the Industrial Hemp Pilot Program is removed from law.
- Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to issue permits for the manufacturing of industrial hemp.
- Adds a provision that no one may be registered for the Industrial Hemp Program if they have been convicted of a felony involving a controlled substance within the last ten years.

In addition, Senate Bill 27 makes the following clean-up provisions:

- A registrant whose Industrial Hemp tests between .3% and 1% THC shall be afforded the opportunity to recondition their crop to get it below .3%. If a registered grower does not recondition their crop, the department may issue a violation.
- Changes to provision on stop orders to give the Department more discretion.
- Changes the definition of Industrial Hemp to match the definition change in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Passage of Senate Bill 27 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