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\*\*\* Current through the 2017 session \*\*\*

TITLE XXI Agriculture and Animals  
CHAPTER 260 Marketing of Agricultural Products  
Industrial Hemp

**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.850 (2017)

**Definitions for KRS 260.850 to 260.869.**

As used in KRS 260.850 to 260.869:

- (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture;
- (2) "Cultivating" means planting, growing, and harvesting a plant or crop;
- (3) "Department" means the Kentucky Department of Agriculture;
- (4) "Handling" means possessing or storing industrial hemp for any period of time on premises owned, operated, or controlled by a person licensed to cultivate or process industrial hemp. "Handling" also includes possessing or storing industrial hemp in a vehicle for any period of time other than during its actual transport from the premises of a licensed person to cultivate or process industrial hemp to the premises of another licensed person;
- (5) "Industrial hemp" has the same meaning as in 7 U.S.C. sec. 5940 as it currently exists or as it may be subsequently amended;
- (6) "Industrial hemp products" means products derived from, or made by, processing industrial hemp plants or plant parts;
- (7) "Licensee" means an individual or business entity possessing a license issued by the department under the authority of this chapter to grow, handle, cultivate, process, or market industrial hemp or industrial hemp products;
- (8) "Marketing" means promoting or selling a product within the Commonwealth, in another state, or outside of the United States. "Marketing" includes efforts to advertise and gather information about the needs or preferences of potential consumers or suppliers;
- (9) "Processing" means converting an agricultural commodity into a marketable form;
- (10) "Research pilot program" means a pilot program conducted by the department in collaboration with one (1) or more licensees or universities to study methods of cultivating, processing, or marketing industrial hemp under the authority of 7 U.S.C. sec. 5940 as it currently exists or as it may be subsequently amended; and
- (11) "University" means an accredited institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2001, ch. 138, § 1, effective June 21, 2001; 2013, ch. 134, § 1, effective June 25, 2013; repealed and reenacted Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 1, effective March 20, 2017.

**NOTES: Legislative Research Commission Note.**

(3/20/2017). 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 45 replaced and restructured the industrial hemp program which was codified in 2001 as KRS 260.850 to 260.869. Section 1 of that Act (this statute) contains definitions for that range of statutes, and in the drafting of that section, "As used in KRS 260.850 to 260.869" concerning the application of the defined terms in that section was charged to read, "As used in Sections 1 to 13 of this Act.". Sections 1 to 10 of that Act contained the restructured sections concerning the research program, and Sections 11, 12, and 13 amended or created statutes in other KRS chapters and repealed some statutes contained within the range of KRS 260.850 to 260.869. It is clear from the context that retaining the original reference to " KRS 260.850 to 260.869" in this statute was necessary and proper, and the Reviser of Statutes has corrected this manifest clerical or typographical error under the authority of KRS 7.136(1)(h).

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KRS § 260.8505 (2017)

**260.8505. Purpose of KRS 260.850 to 260.869 declared to be the support of industrial hemp production, development, and commercialization -- Accomplishment of purpose achieved through auspices of Industrial Hemp Commission, research, and pursuit of federal permits or waivers -- General Assembly finds that development of industrial hemp is proper governmental purpose and important to Commonwealth's well-being. [Repealed]**

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.851 (2017)

**Administrative regulations to license research on industrial hemp and hemp products and establish testing criteria and protocols. [Repealed]**

**NOTES: Compiler's Notes**

This section (Enact. Acts 2001, ch. 138, § 2, effective June 21, 2001; 2013, ch. 134, § 3, effective June 25, 2013) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.

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KRS § 260.852 (2017)

**Commonwealth's industrial hemp policy.**

It is the declared policy of the Commonwealth that industrial hemp is a viable agricultural crop in the Commonwealth. The purposes of KRS 260.850 to 260.869 are to:

- (1) Promote the research and study methods of cultivating, processing, and marketing industrial hemp;
- (2) Promote the expansion of the Commonwealth's industrial hemp industry to the maximum extent permitted by federal law, in anticipation of a change in federal law allowing citizens of the Commonwealth to cultivate, handle, or process industrial hemp and industrial hemp products for commercial purposes without participating in research pilot programs; and
- (3) Move the Commonwealth and its citizens to the forefront of the industrial hemp industry.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 2, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.853 (2017)

**Promotion of research and development of markets for Kentucky industrial hemp and hemp products -- Responsibilities of the commission -- Establishment of five year research program -- Demonstration plots overseen by University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station -- Research into new energy technologies -- Coordination with universities and the Cabinet for Economic Development -- Exemption from criminal liability -- Annual report. [Repealed]**

**NOTES: Compiler's Notes.**

This section (Enact. Acts 2001, ch. 138, § 3, effective June 21, 2001; 2007, ch. 85, § 277, effective June 26, 2007; 2010, ch. 135, § 8, effective July 15, 2010; 2013, ch. 134, § 4, effective June 25, 2013) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.854 (2017)

**Conditions and procedures for issuing industrial hemp research program grower license and industrial hemp grower licenses -- Content and processing of applications for licenses -- Criminal background checks -- Commissioner's discretion in approving licenses -- License fees set by administrative regulations -- Monitoring requirements. [Repealed]**

**NOTES: Compiler's Notes.**

This section (Enact. Acts 2013, ch. 134, § 11, effective July 25, 2013) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.855 (2017)

**Rights and duties of industrial hemp grower licensee -- Operational procedures for licensed growers -- Standards for transporting industrial hemp off premises of licensed grower -- Seizure and disposal of hemp deemed contraband. [Repealed]**

**NOTES: Compiler's Notes.**

This section (Enact. Acts 2013, ch. 134, § 12, effective June 25, 2013) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.



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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.856 (2017)

**Forfeiture of right to grow hemp following revocation of industrial hemp grower license -- Failure to comply with administrative regulations -- Plea to or conviction of felony -- Administrative hearings and appeals. [Repealed]**

**NOTES: Compiler's Notes.**

This section (Enact. Acts 2013, ch. 134, § 13, effective June 25, 2013) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.857 (2017)

**Kentucky Industrial Hemp Commission -- Membership.[Repealed] NOTES:**

**Compiler's Notes.**

This section (Enact. Acts 2001, ch. 138, § 4, effective June 21, 2001; 2007, ch. 85, § 278, effective June 26, 2007; 2009, ch. 32, § 3, effective June 25, 2009; 2013, ch. 134, § 5, effective June 25, 2013; 2014, ch. 114, § 1, effective July 15, 2014) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.858 (2017)

**Purpose of industrial hemp research pilot program -- Lawful and unlawful conduct.**

(1) The purpose of the research pilot program authorized by this chapter is to enable the department, and its licensees and affiliated universities, to study methods of cultivating, processing, or marketing industrial hemp.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, it is lawful for a licensee, or his or her agent, to cultivate, handle, or process industrial hemp or industrial hemp products in the Commonwealth.

(3) It is unlawful for a person who does not hold a license issued by the department, or who is not an agent of a licensee, to cultivate, handle, process, or market living industrial hemp plants or viable seeds, leaf materials, or floral materials derived from industrial hemp. Penalties for persons who cultivate, handle, process, or market living industrial hemp plants or viable seeds, leaf materials, or floral materials derived from industrial hemp without a license are the same as those penalties that are applicable to persons who violate KRS Chapter 218A, relating to marijuana.

(4) Nothing in this chapter authorizes any person to violate any federal or state law or regulation.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 3, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.859 (2017)

**Quorum for commission -- Chair and vice chair. [Repealed] NOTES:**

**Compiler's Notes.**

This section (Enact. Acts 2001, ch. 138, § 5, effective June 21, 2001; 2013, ch. 134, § 6, effective June 25, 2013) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.

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KRS § 260.860 (2017)

**Industrial Hemp Advisory Board.**

(1) The Industrial Hemp Advisory Board is created for the purpose of providing advice and expertise as may be needed by a university or the department with respect to plans, policies, and procedures applicable to the administration of its respective industrial hemp research pilot programs.

(2) The Industrial Hemp Advisory Board shall be attached to the department for administrative purposes.

(3) The Industrial Hemp Advisory Board shall be composed of the following members:

(a) The Commissioner of the department or the Commissioner's designee;

(b) The executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy or the executive director's designee;

(c) The dean of the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment or the dean's designee;

(d) The commissioner of the Department of Kentucky State Police or the commissioner's designee;

(e) The president of the Kentucky Sheriff's Association or the president's designee;

(f) The president of the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police or the president's designee; and

(g) Ten (10) at-large members designated by the Commissioner.

(4) The Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee shall serve as chair.

(5) A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

(6) The board shall meet at least one (1) time annually at the call of the chair.

(7) In making the initial appointments of the board, the Commissioner shall stagger the terms of the board members. Thereafter, members shall be appointed to a term of four (4) years and shall serve until their successors are duly appointed and qualified.

(8) Board members shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed, payable from the industrial hemp research pilot program fund, for any actual travel expense incurred while attending meetings of the board.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 5, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.861 (2017)

**Meetings -- Compensation of members -- Staff services by Department of Agriculture and University of Kentucky  
Agricultural Experiment Station. [Repealed]**

**NOTES: Compiler's Notes.**

This section (Enact. Acts 2001, ch. 138, § 6, effective June 21, 2001; 2013, ch. 134, § 7, effective June 25, 2013) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.862 (2017)

**Promulgation of administrative regulations concerning the industrial hemp research pilot program -- Licensure of pilot program participants.**

(1) In addition to any other powers vested in it by law, the department shall have the authority and power to promulgate administrative regulations to:

- (a) Prescribe rules for any industrial hemp pilot program;
- (b) Conduct one (1) or more industrial hemp research pilot programs;
- (c) License persons who wish to participate in an industrial hemp research pilot program by cultivating, handling, processing, or marketing industrial hemp;
- (d) Prescribe rules for a university's participation in, or affiliation with, any industrial hemp research pilot program;
- (e) Prescribe sampling and testing procedures to ensure that industrial hemp and industrial hemp products cultivated, handled, processed, or marketed under the authority of this section do not exceed the concentration levels defined in 7 U.S.C. sec. 5940 as it currently exists or as it may be subsequently amended;
- (f) Define classes or categories of industrial hemp products that are eligible for sale, transfer, or distribution to members of the public; and
- (g) Establish a schedule of nonrefundable fees for administering any industrial hemp research pilot program.

(2) (a) No person shall cultivate, handle, process, or market industrial hemp in the Commonwealth unless the person holds an industrial hemp license issued by the department.

(b) Any person seeking to cultivate industrial hemp shall provide to the department the legal description and global positioning coordinates sufficient for locating the fields or greenhouses to be used to grow industrial hemp.

(c) Any person seeking to cultivate or process industrial hemp shall provide to the department prior written consent allowing representatives of the department, the Department of Kentucky State Police, and other state and local law enforcement agencies to enter onto all premises where industrial hemp is cultivated, processed, or stored for the purpose of conducting physical inspections or ensuring compliance with the requirements of KRS 260.850 to 260.869 and administrative regulations promulgated by the department.

(d) An applicant for a license issued by the department shall submit to and pay for an annual criminal background check conducted by the Department of Kentucky State Police or another state or federal law enforcement agency selected by the

department.

(e) No person who has been convicted of any felony or any drug-related misdemeanor or violation in the previous ten (10) years from the date of application shall be eligible to obtain a license.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 4, effective March 20, 2017.

**NOTES: Legislative Research Commission Notes.**

(3/20/2017). 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 45 contained 13 sections. Sections 1 to 10 of that Act amended, repealed and reenacted, or created statutes relating to the industrial hemp research program found in the statutory range of KRS 260.850 to 260.869. Sections 11 and 12 amended or created statutes in other KRS chapters, and Section 13 repealed some statutes within KRS 260.850 to 260.869. The correct reference should have been to only Sections 1 to 10 of this Act, the relevant range affecting the industrial hemp research program, and in codification the Reviser of Statutes has codified that language in this statute accordingly under the authority of KRS 7.136(1)(h) to correct manifest clerical or typographical errors.



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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.863 (2017)

**Recommendations and annual report of commission. [Repealed]**

**NOTES: Compiler's Notes.**

This section (Enact. Acts 2001, ch. 138, § 7, effective June 21, 2001; 2010, ch. 135, § 9, effective July 15, 2010; 2013, ch. 134, § 8, effective June 25, 2013) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.864 (2017)

**Disciplinary actions against pilot program licensees -- Monetary civil penalty authorized -- Exception.**

(1) The department may temporarily suspend a license up to sixty (60) days if the licensee is alleged to have:

(a) Violated any provision of KRS 260.850 to 260.869 or an administrative regulation promulgated under the authority of KRS 260.850 to 260.869;

(b) Made any false statement to the department or its representatives;

(c) Pled guilty to, or been convicted of, any felony or drug-related misdemeanor or violation;

(d) Failed to comply with only those instructions agreed upon in the contract signed by the licensee at the time the industrial hemp license was issued; or

(e) Failed to comply with an order from a representative of the department, representative of the Department of Kentucky State Police, or any law enforcement officer.

(2) The department may temporarily suspend a license up to sixty (60) days without giving the licensee advance notice of the charge against him or her or an opportunity to be heard.

(3) The department shall not permanently revoke a license until the department has notified the licensee of the charge against him or her and given the licensee an opportunity for a hearing before a three (3) person panel whose members have been designated by the Commissioner. The three (3) person panel shall include:

(a) Two (2) members who are employees of the department; and

(b) One (1) member who is not an employee of the department.

(4) The department may permanently revoke a license if the licensee admits, or is found in a hearing, to have:

(a) Violated any provision of KRS 260.850 to 260.869 or an administrative regulation promulgated under the authority of KRS 260.850 to 260.869;

(b) Made any false statement to the department or its representative;

(c) Pled guilty to, or been convicted of, any felony or drug-related misdemeanor or violation; or

(d) Failed to comply with any instruction or order from the department, a representative of the Department of Kentucky

State Police, or any law enforcement officer.

(5) The department may impose a monetary civil penalty, not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$ 2,500) per violation, on any person who violates KRS 260.850 to 260.869 or an administrative regulation promulgated under the authority of KRS 260.850 to 260.869.

(6) The department shall not impose a monetary civil penalty against a person alleged to have violated KRS 260.850 to 260.869, or an administrative regulation promulgated under the authority of KRS 260.850 to 260.869, until the department has notified the person of the charge against him or her and given the person the opportunity for a hearing before the three (3) person panel.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 9, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.865 (2017)

**Mandatory adoption of federal rules and regulations regarding industrial hemp -- KRS 260.850 to 260.869 not to conflict with federal law. [Repealed]**

**NOTES: Compiler's Notes.**

This section (Enact. Acts 2001, ch. 138, § 8, effective June 21, 2001; 2013, ch. 134, § 9, effective June 25, 2013) was repealed by Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 13, effective March 20, 2017.

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KRS § 260.866 (2017)

**Industrial hemp research pilot program fund.**

(1) The industrial hemp research pilot program fund is hereby created as a separate trust fund in the State Treasury. The fund shall consist of amounts received from appropriations, and any other proceeds from gifts, grants, federal funds, application fees, or license fees provided by KRS 260.862, civil penalties as provided by KRS 260.864, and any other funds, both public and private, made available for purposes of KRS 260.850 to 260.869.

(2) The industrial hemp research pilot program fund shall be administered by the department.

(3) Amounts deposited in the industrial hemp research pilot program fund shall be used for the costs of personnel, program administration, testing, actual travel expenses of the advisory board established under KRS 260.860, and any other costs incurred while conducting the industrial hemp research pilot programs under KRS 260.850 to 260.869.

(4) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, the industrial hemp research pilot program fund amounts not expended at the close of a fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

(5) Any interest earnings of the industrial hemp research pilot program fund shall become part of the fund and shall not lapse.

(6) Moneys in the fund are hereby appropriated for the purposes set forth in this section and shall not be appropriated or transferred by the General Assembly for any other purposes unless the industrial hemp research pilot program is discontinued by the Commissioner as provided by KRS 260.867. If the program is discontinued, moneys remaining in the fund shall lapse to the general fund no later than one (1) year after notice of the program discontinuation, and the fund shall be closed.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 8, effective March 20, 2017.

**NOTES: Legislative Research Commission Notes.**

(3/20/2017). 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 45 contained 13 sections. Sections 1 to 10 of that Act amended, repealed and reenacted, or created statutes relating to the industrial hemp research program found in the statutory range of KRS 260.850 to 260.869. Sections 11 and 12 amended or created statutes in other KRS chapters, and Section 13 repealed some statutes within KRS 260.850 to 260.869. The correct reference should have been to only Sections 1 to 10 of this Act, the relevant range affecting the industrial hemp research program, and in codification the Reviser of Statutes has codified that language in this statute accordingly under the authority of KRS 7.136(1)(h) to correct manifest clerical or typographical errors.

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KRS § 260.867 (2017)

**Discontinuation of industrial hemp research pilot program -- Conditions -- Notice.**

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the department may discontinue the industrial hemp research pilot program if the Commissioner finds that:

(a) A change in federal law makes continuation of the industrial hemp research pilot program impractical or impossible; or

(b) A change in federal law allows citizens of the Commonwealth to cultivate, handle, or process industrial hemp and industrial hemp products without participating in a research pilot program conducted by the department.

(2) The Commissioner shall notify, in writing, the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate, that the industrial hemp research pilot program has been discontinued.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2017, ch. 45, § 10, effective March 20, 2017.

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**GO TO KENTUCKY STATUTES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY**

KRS § 260.868 (2017)

**Eligibility of licensees to receive tobacco settlement funds under Master Settlement Agreement.**

A person holding a license issued by the department may be eligible to receive funds received by the state under the Master Settlement Agreement and placed in the rural development fund established in KRS 248.655.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2013, ch. 134, § 14, effective June 25, 2013; 2017, ch. 45, § 6, effective March 20, 2017.

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KRS § 260.869 (2017)

**Industrial hemp program fund.**

(1) There is established in the State Treasury a trust and agency fund entitled the industrial hemp program fund, to be administered by the commission for the purpose of covering the costs of the commission and the industrial hemp research program, as approved by the commission.

(2) The fund may receive state appropriations, gifts, grants, federal funds, and any other funds both public and private, and shall receive all license application fees and license renewal fees collected by the commission. Money deposited in the fund is hereby appropriated for purposes set out in this section.

(3) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unallocated or unencumbered balances in the fund shall be invested as provided in KRS 42.500(9), and any interest or other income earned from the investments, along with the unallotted or unencumbered balances in the fund, shall not lapse but shall be carried forward for purposes of the fund.

(4) The industrial hemp program fund shall be closed on July 1, 2017. All moneys remaining in the fund shall be deposited in the industrial hemp research pilot program fund created under KRS 260.866 and shall be used for the purposes established under that section.

**HISTORY:** Enact. Acts 2001, ch. 138, § 9, effective June 21, 2001; 2013, ch. 134, § 10, effective June 25, 2013; 2017, ch. 45, § 7, effective March 20, 2017.