Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 1549 (Representatives Monson, Porter, Uglem) (Senators Dever, J. Lee, Lindaas)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 4-41-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to industrial hemp; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 4-41-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-41-02. Industrial hemp - Licensure - Reporting requirements - Continuing appropriation.

- Any person desiring to grow or process industrial hemp for commercial purposes or research shall apply to the agriculture commissioner for a license on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The application for a license must include the name and address of the applicant and the legal description of the land area to be used to produce or process industrial hemp. Except for employees of the state seed department, the agricultural experiment station, or the North Dakota state university extension service involved in research and extension-related activities, the commissioner shall require each applicant for initial licensure to submit to a statewide and nationwide criminal history check. The nationwide criminal history check must be conducted in the manner provided in section 12-60-24. All costs associated with the background check are the responsibility of the applicant. Criminal history records provided to the commissioner under this section are confidential. The commissioner may use the records only in determining an applicant's eligibility for licensure. Any person with a prior criminal conviction is not eligible for licensure. If the applicant has completed the application process to the satisfaction of the commissioner, the commissioner shall issue the license, which is valid for a period of one year. Any person licensed under this section is presumed to be growing or processing industrial hemp for commercial purposes or research. A license required by this section is not conditioned on or subject to review or approval by the United States drug enforcement agency. This subsection does not apply to any person licensed by the United States drug enforcement agency to conduct research.
- Each licensee must file with the commissioner documentation indicating that the seeds
 planted were of a type and variety certified to have no more than three-tenths of one
 percent tetrahydrocannabinol and a copy of any contract to grow industrial hemp. Each
 licensee shall notify the commissioner of the sale or distribution of any industrial hemp
 grown by the licensee, and the names of the persons to whom the hemp was sold or
 distributed.
- 3. The commissioner shall adopt rules to allow the industrial hemp to be tested during growth for tetrahydrocannabinol levels and to allow for supervision of the industrial hemp during its growing, harvesting, and processing. To provide sufficient funds to pay costs associated with monitoring and testing industrial hemp in the state, the commissioner shall assess each applicant a fee of five dollars per acre. The minimum fee assessed must be one hundred fifty dollars per applicant. Collections from this fee must be deposited in the commissioner's operating fund and are appropriated to the commissioner to be used to enforce this chapter.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

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	Speaker of the House Chief Clerk of the House				Secretary of the Senate			
Assembly o	f North D	akota and is k	known on the r	records	of Representatives of that body as Hountairves voted in favo	use Bill No. 154		
Vote:	Yeas	89	Nays	3	Absent	2		
	Speaker of the House				Chief Clerk of the House			
This certifies	s that two	-thirds of the r	nembers-elect	of the	Senate voted in favo	r of said law.		
Vote:	Yeas	40	Nays	1	Absent	6		
	President of the Senate				Secretary of the Senate			
Received by the Governor at M. on						, 2009).	
Approved a	t	M. on				, 2009		
					Governor			
Filed in this office this day of						, 2009),	
at	_ o'clock	M.						
					Secretary of State			