

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 14-191

HB5476

House	6487-6492	6
Senate	3466, 3476, 3480-3481	4
<u>General Law</u>	<u>792-798, 1154-1157</u>	<u>11</u>
		21

H – 1199

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
PART 19
6233 – 6539**

Have all the members voted?

Members please stay close to the Chamber. We will be calling these votes quickly.

Have all the members voted?

Will the members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 24, as amended by Senate "A" in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	144
Those Voting Nay	0
Those Absent and Not Voting	7

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 164.

THE CLERK:

House Calendar 164, on Page 5, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on General Law, Substitute House Bill 4 -- 5476, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STUDY OF FEASIBILITY OF LEGALIZING INDUSTRIAL HEMP.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Kiner.

REP. KINER (59th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report, and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. KINER (59th):

I will, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The bill requires the Department of Consumer Protection and Department of Economic Development to study the feasibility of legalizing the production, possession, and sale of industrial hemp to promote economic development and increasing the number of businesses in Connecticut.

As you will soon hear, this bill has been promoted by both sides of the aisle. It did pass the General Law Committee unanimously. It's effective upon passage. Nine other states have done it. And I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment. It is LCO 5616. Would you please ask the Clerk to call it, and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 5616, which would be designated House Amendment "A".

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. --

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO 5616, introduced by Representative Ziobron, et al.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The gentlewoman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Is there objection?

Seeing none, you may proceed with summarization, madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a couple of small changes. The first is a technical change which is in Section 1(b) of the bill. On the next section, Section 2, it breaks

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 6, 2014

the study up into three different departments so that it's under three separate offices, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Protection, and Economic and Community Development.

And -- and I ask to move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment "A".

Will you remark?

Representative Kiner.

I'm sorry, you were summarizing. You still have the floor, madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

So as -- as I was starting to say, that it breaks up the study into three, Commissioner's Office, the Commissioner of Agriculture Consumer Protection, and Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Attorney General. And it eliminates the fiscal note when -- when you separate it in that way.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment "A".

Will you remark?

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 6, 2014

Representative Kiner.

REP. KINER (59th):

Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative Ziobron for her work on this amendment. We consider it a very friendly amendment and urge our colleagues to support it.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark further on House Amendment "A"?

If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor of House "A", please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Do you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Would you care to remark further?

If not, staff and guests to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

Will members please report to the Chamber
immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the
members voted?

Members please check the board to make sure
your vote is properly cast.

If all the members have voted, the machine will
be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 5476, as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting 144

Necessary for Passage 73

Those Voting Yea 138

Those Voting Nay 6

Those Absent and Not Voting 7

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Mr. Speaker, I move to immediately transmit all
items acted upon in the House awaiting further
action in the Senate.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Motion is for immediate transmittal to the
Senate.

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CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VETO
SESSION**

**VOL. 57
PART 11
3246 – 3508**

pat/gbr
SENATE

281
May 7, 2014

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, an additional item to place on the Consent
Calendar from Favorable Reports, Calendar Page 30,
Calendar 592, House Bill Number 5476.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. If we might stand at ease
for just verifying additional items.

THE CHAIR:

The House will stand, the Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, we have
one item to remove from the Consent Calendar because I
believe it requires an amendment, and that is Calendar
Page 22, Calendar 536, House Bill 5546. If we might
remove that item from the Consent Calendar and mark it
Go.

THE CHAIR:

Sorry, again it's Page 22?

SENATOR LOONEY:

Page 22, Calendar 536, House Bill 5546, to be removed
from the Calendar and marked Go.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. I don't have that on my, okay.

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May 7, 2014

On Page 27, Calendar 574, House Bill 5564.

House Bill 578, House Bill 5220.

On Page 28, Calendar 580, House Bill 5310.

Calendar 584, House Bill 5334.

Calendar 585, House Bill 5586.

Calendar 583, House Bill 5289.

On Page 29, Calendar 586, House Bill 5402.

Calendar 589, House Bill 5550.

Calendar 590, House Bill 5262.

Calendar 587, House Bill 5377.

On Page 30, Calendar 593, House Bill 5526.

Calendar 592, House Bill 5476.

On Page 33, Calendar 215, Senate Bill 243.

On Page 39, Calendar 387, Senate Bill 432.

On Page 40, Calendar 475, House Joint Resolution
Number 20.

Calendar 476, House Joint Resolution Number 26.

Calendar 532, House Joint Resolution Number 42.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, can you please check on Consent Calendar
House Bill 5593. I don't see if you called that, on
the top.

THE CLERK:

That's on the previously adopted Senate Agenda House
Bill 5593.

THE CHAIR:

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SENATE

295
May 7, 2014

SENATOR LOONEY:

If we might pause for just a moment to verify a couple of additional items.

Madam President, to verify an additional item, I believe it was placed on the Consent Calendar and Calendar Page 30, on Calendar Page 30, Calendar 592, Substitute for House Bill 5476.

THE CHAIR:

It is, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

It is on? Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would now, finally, Agenda Number 4, Madam President, Agenda Number 4 one additional item ask for suspension to place up on Agenda Number 4 and that is, ask for suspension to place on the Consent Calendar an item from Agenda Number 4.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President, and that item is Substitute House Bill Number 5566 from Senate Agenda Number 4.

Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would now, if we might call for a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Will you please call for a Roll Call Vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

An immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.

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SENATE

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May 7, 2014

An immediate Roll Call on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar Number 2.

Total number voting	36
Necessary for adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Two additional items to take up before the, our final vote on the implementer. If we might stand for just, for just a moment.

The first item to mark Go is, Calendar, to remove from the Consent Calendar, Calendar Page 22, Calendar 536, House Bill 5546. If that item might be marked Go.

And one additional item, Madam President, and that was from Calendar, or rather from Agenda Number 4, ask for suspension to take it up for purposes of marking it Go, that is House Bill, Substitute for House Bill 5417. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GENERAL
LAW
PART 2
506 – 1173**

2014

15
tk/gbr GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

March 11, 2014
4:30 P.M.

REP. SEAR: And thank you all.

SENATOR DOYLE: Next speaker is Representative
Melissa Ziobron. She's here?

REP. ZIOBRON Good afternoon, Senator Doyle,
Representative Baram, Senator Witkos,
Representative Carter and esteemed members of
the General Law Committee.

I'm submitting testimony today in support of
House Bill 5476, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF
THE FEASIBILITY OF LEGALIZING INDUSTRIAL HEMP.

The use of hemp far predates the use of cotton
or other materials. In fact, the earliest-
known woven fabric was hemp and it dates back
to 7000 B.C.

Up until the 1800s, some estimate that 80
percent of all textiles and fabrics were made
of hemp fibers. In the ancient times it was
used to create fabric, paper and oil. So why
do we have such an aversion to using this
material? Simply put, it is misinformation
that is stopping us from using this highly-
versatile and sustainable resource.

There are some who estimate that 25,000 items
could be manufactured from hemp. Deforestation
is occurring around 3 percent per year, and
hemp is a far superior resource, since it can
be grown to maturity in 100 days.

These facts, along with the potential at
creating thousands of U.S. jobs, should warrant
the study from DECD that this bill proposes.

Since the war on drugs began, many folks
confused hemp with marijuana. According to
some of the research that I've done, hemp

contains such a low level of THC that it would take many football fields of use to render the same effect as marijuana.

While the plant genus is the same, in fact, if it is grown next to each other it would render the marijuana sterile. In addition, research is warranted regarding the new Federal Farm Bill, which allows colleges and universities to start pilot programs for growing hemp.

While it appears that 10 states fit this guideline, part of the DECD due diligence should deal with the federal and state implications as well.

There is growing demand for hemp products in the United States, and the irony is that we cannot produce the raw material here to develop those and help our local businesses. Instead, they are imported from all over the world.

This bill would investigate the feasibility of a product that has been around for thousands of years that has proven to be more sustainable than even wood, is 100 percent versatile and has a proven market. So what are we waiting for?

I brought with me 15 interesting facts that I think you might find interesting as well regarding hemp and its history in the United States.

All school books were made from hemp or flax paper until the 1880s. It was legal to pay taxes with hemp in American from 1631 until the early 1800s. Refusing to grow hemp in America during the 17th and 18th centuries was actually against the law. I guess you could be jailed in Virginia if you refused.

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other Founding Fathers grew hemp. Benjamin Franklin owned one of the first paper mills in America, and it processed hemp.

Also the War of 1812 was fought over hemp.

For thousands of years, 90 percent of all ships' sails and rope were made from hemp, and the word canvas comes from the Middle English word canevas, which comes from the Latin word cannabis.

Eighty percent of all textiles, fabrics, clothes, linen, drapes, bed sheets were made from hemp until the 1820s with the introduction of the cotton gin. The first Bibles, maps, charts, Betsy Ross's flag, the first draft of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were made from hemp.

The first crop grown in many states was hemp. In 1850 was a peak year for Kentucky, producing 40,000 tons. Hemp was the largest cash crop until the 20th century. Oldest-known records of hemp farming go back 5,000 years in China, although hemp industrialization probably goes back to ancient Egypt.

Rembrandt, Van Gogh, as well as early canvas paintings were principally painted on hemp linen. I'll wrap it up.

And there's a few others. If you're interested I'll email them to you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you very much.

REP. : But I bring that to your attention because it was very interesting to me, the history of what we're talking about.

SENATOR DOYLE: Sure.

REP. ZIOBRON: Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you.

Representative, are there other states that produce hemp as an industrial base?

REP. ZIOBRON: In the research that I've done, I guess there's 10 other states that are allowed to do it, that have the law for industrialization. And according to the latest farm bill that was just passed, colleges and private universities could do a pilot program but only with those 10 states that the industrialization in place.

SENATOR WITKOS: And are you aware, do they have any security procedures, where those will be grown, like indoors only or anything like that?

REP. ZIOBRON: I don't have all that data. It sounds from the bill that DECD would have to do a lot of that study and due diligence in the bill, which is only for a study. But I'm sure it's -- you know, we're talking about industrial use.

I'm envisioning empty warehouses in the State of Connecticut and other places that could be using hydroponics and other ways to cultivate that.

SENATOR WITKOS: Okay. Thank you, thank you Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you. Representative

Altobello.

REP. ALTOBELLO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Representative.

I noticed you've got two different departments that would be coordinating this study, but there's one that's left out, the Department of Agriculture. Is there any reason why you left them out or if we went forward this bill --

REP. ZIOBRON: No. I think the Department of Ag should definitely be included if the bill goes forward.

REP. ALTOBELLO: Because you're talking about growing it here as well?

REP. ZIOBRON: Yeah, absolutely.

REP. ALTOBELLO: Okay.

REP. ZIOBRON: No, I think that's a very valid point.

REP. ALTOBELLO: Thank you, Madame.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Any further questions?

Representative Rutigliano.

REP. RUTIGLIANO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good afternoon, Representative. What does it look like?

REP. ZIOBRON: Well, it's interesting because it's very tall. It grows to be about 18 feet tall

and the stem is very woody. It doesn't look like marijuana, which is --

REP. RUTIGLIANO: It doesn't look anything -- it's completely different?

REP. ZIOBRON: No, it looks similar, but it's so tall and woody. Marijuana -- and I'm not an expert in that field but let me just be clear. The difference is when I'm doing my research is that hemp is the plant itself and the fiber of the whole plant is what's used.

And marijuana, I believe, it's just the flower that is used.

REP. RUTIGLIANO: Are they two completely different species?

REP. ZIOBRON: Just like the genus for the dog family, you know, there's a difference between a Chihuahua and a wolf, but they have the same scientific origin. This would be the same. The same plant species, but if you were actually to grow it next to each other, it would take away all the potency of the marijuana.

REP. RUTIGLIANO: And you would be able to tell the difference between the two if they were grown next to each other.

REP. ZIOBRON: Well, I think that's -- a lot of people assume that you can't tell the difference, and I think that's part of the myth behind it. I think, you know, you certainly can tell the difference in a lot of ways.

REP. RUTIGLIANO: Thank you. Thank you for your time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Any questions from the committee?

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

So I just want to make sure I understand this. Is there still some THC in the product, in hemp?

REP. ZIOBRON: Yeah. I guess it's less than 1 percent. From what I have been reading about it, it's so small that you would literally die of carbon monoxide poisoning if you attempted to use it in the same way as marijuana is used.

And when they import it, I guess, from other countries, they do test it for that, and if it's above a certain level it's not brought into the United States.

REP. CARTER: Okay. Thank you very much.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Are there any further questions? Are we all set? Okay. Thank you.

REP. ZIOBRON: Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Next speaker, David Waskowicz.

Is David Waskowicz here?

DAVID WASKOWICZ: Good afternoon, Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, and members of the General Law Committee.

David Waskowicz, Chairman of the Fire Protection Sprinkler System Work Examining Board for the State of Connecticut, Department

SB412



State of Connecticut

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL**

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**MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

General Law
Public Testimony
Tuesday, March 11, 2014

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5476 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE
FEASIBILITY OF LEGALIZING INDUSTRIAL HEMP.**

Dear Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos, Representative Carter, and esteemed members of the General Law Committee.

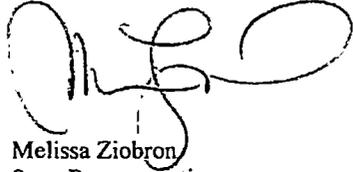
I submit this testimony in support of HOUSE BILL 5476 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF LEGALIZING INDUSTRIAL HEMP.

The use of hemp far predates the use of cotton or other materials. In fact the earliest known woven fabric was dates back to 7,000 BC. Up until the 1800's some estimate that 80% of all textiles and fabrics were made from hemp fibers. In ancient times it was used to create fabric, paper, and oil. So why do we have such an aversion to using this material? Simply put, it is misinformation that is stopping us from using this highly versatile sustainable resource. There are some who estimate that 25,000 items could be manufactured from hemp. Deforestation is occurring at around 3% per year, and hemp is a far superior resource since it can be grown to maturity in 100 days. These facts, along with the potential at creating thousands of US jobs should warrant the study from DECD that this bill proposes.

Since the war on drugs began many folks confuse hemp and marijuana. According to some of the research that I have done, hemp contains such a low level of THC that it would take many football fields of use, to render the same effect as marijuana. While the plant genus is the same—in fact if grown next to each other it would render the marijuana sterile. In addition, some additional research is warranted regarding the new Farm Bill which allows colleges and universities to start pilot programs for growing hemp. It appears to all the programs specifically in states where the industrialization and cultivation of the crop is legal. While it appears that 10 states fit this guideline, part of DECD due diligence should deal with the federal/state implications as well.

There is a growing demand for hemp products in the United States and the irony is that we cannot produce the raw material here to develop those from local businesses. Instead, they are imported from all over the world. This bill would investigate the feasibility of a product that has been around for thousands of years, that has proven to be more sustainable than even wood, is 100% versatile, and has a proven market. What are we waiting for?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ziobron', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Melissa Ziobron
State Representative
34th District

**State of Connecticut**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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Testimony Submitted to the General Law Committee**March 11, 2014****House Bill 5476****“An Act Concerning a Study of the Feasibility of Legalizing Industrial Hemp”**

Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos, Representative Carter and distinguished members of the General Law Committee. The House Republican Caucus would like to comment on House Bill 5476, An Act Concerning a Study of the Feasibility of Legalizing Industrial Hemp. The House Republican Caucus would also like to take this opportunity to thank the General Law Committee for raising House Bill 5476 for a public hearing.

Industrial hemp is grown across the world and is commonly used in many products within the United States such as rope, clothing, soap, and even as a substitute for fiberglass in auto parts. Unfortunately, at this time, hemp must be outsourced from countries such as China, Canada, and Eastern Europe to fulfill our country's need for the product. Currently, the United States is both the world's largest consumer of hemp and the only industrialized nation in the world that bans the cultivation of hemp.

Industrial hemp refers to a type of Cannabis plant that contains low levels of the psychoactive chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and can be used to produce a variety of products including textiles, plastics, fuel and food. Presently, the federal government bans the cultivation of hemp because it contains THC. Marijuana and industrial hemp are both cannabis plants; however, the chemical makeup of the two plants vastly differs. Additionally, unlike marijuana, an individual cannot achieve a high from hemp.

Recently, there has been a dramatic policy shift within the country regarding the legalization and use of marijuana. As states within the country increasingly explore the legalization of marijuana, the legalization and cultivation of hemp may be closer than we realize. Currently nine states including California, Colorado, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont and West Virginia have passed laws regarding the promotion and marketing of industrial hemp. Additionally, Hawaii has gone one step further by having passed legislation authorizing privately-funded industrial hemp research. Moreover, the 2014 Farm Bill agreement brought to the forefront industrial hemp by allowing institutions of higher education and state departments of agriculture to grow or cultivate industrial hemp. Furthermore, Connecticut is among 28 legislatures within the country considering bills on the subject of industrial hemp this legislative session.

HB 5476 is a House Republican Caucus proposal to further investigate industrial hemp. The proposal requires the Commissioners of Consumer Protection and Economic and Community Development to study the feasibility of legalizing the production, possession and sale of industrial hemp, including 1) defining industrial hemp in statute; 2) legalizing industrial hemp; and 3) developing a licensing system.

Legalization of industrial hemp will encourage economic development within the state of Connecticut by creating a vibrant new cash crop for farmers. Not only can hemp be grown quickly and economically within the state, United States manufacturers that solely rely on outsourced hemp will finally have a domestic source for the product. This is an unprecedented opportunity to stay ahead of the curve on the cultivation of industrial hemp within the state of Connecticut and to understand the true nature of industrial hemp and how it could help manufacturers, farmers, and consumers, alike.

House Republicans thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of this important initiative, and we urge the committee to support HB 5476, An Act Concerning a Study of the Feasibility of Legalizing Industrial Hemp.