

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4990



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Introduced by REPS. ENRICO A. PINEDA, MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO, Ph.D., RICARDO "RJ" T. BELMONTE, SABINIANO S. CANAMA, RON P. SALO, BENHUR B. LOPEZ, JR., TOMASITO S. VILLARIN, ANICETO BERTIZ, TEODORO G. MONTORO, SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR., BENHUR B. LOPEZ, JR., VIRGILIO S. LACSON, MAKMOD D. MENDING, CARLOS ROMAN L. UYBARRETA, ORESTES T. SALON and MANUEL LUIS T. LOPEZ

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Hemp is a miracle plant with a multitude of beneficial uses. It is unfortunate that it has been equated or otherwise mistaken to be the drug commonly known as marijuana. The truth is, hemp is not marijuana and it has never been and will never be as destructive and addictive as marijuana.

This bill seeks to underline the significant and beneficial industrial uses of hemp which contrary to beliefs, do not contain the addictive element that its prohibited drug of a brother is known for. On the other hand, hemp is a good source of fuel, fiber, food and medicine as in any other cash crop that is commonly cultivated among farms around the world. Its stalks produces what may be considered the strongest fiber in the world which is being utilized for the production of textiles, papers and even construction materials. Its seeds are a rich source of oil which is used for industrial products such as plastics, paints, inks and fuel and even soaps and cosmetics.

The cultivation of hemp as a cash crop is legally recognized in almost thirty countries around the world including China and our Southeast Asian neighbor of Thailand. In 2011 alone, global production of raw hemp amounted to 250M British Pounds. If we account the amount of trading involved with its by-products, it should increase exponentially. And it is in this context that the Philippines with its rich and vast farmlands, can capitalize on the potential of hemp as a cash crop which can significantly increase the livelihood of our farmers. It is imperative that an in-depth and comprehensive study of the viability of hemp production under the Philippine context be conducted.

Early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
ENRICO A. PINEDA  
1-PACMAN

MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO,  
PhD  
1-PACMAN

  
RICARDO "RJ" T. BELMONTE  
SBP

  
SABINIANO S. CANAMA  
COOP-NATCCO

RON P. SALO  
KABAYAN

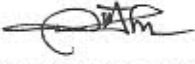
  
BENHUR B. LOPEZ, JR.  
YACAP

  
TOMASITO S. VILLARIN  
AKBAYAN

  
ANICETO BERTIZ  
ACTS-OFW

  
TEODORO G. MONTORO  
AASENSO

SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.  
1-ANG EDUKASYON

  
ORESTES T. SALON  
AGRI

VIRGILIO S. LACSON  
MANILA TEACHERS

MAKMOD D. MENDING, JR.  
AMIN

  
CARLOS ROMAN L. UYBARRETA  
1-CARE

  
MANUEL LUIS T. LOPEZ  
1st District, MANILA

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

AN ACT  
LEGALIZING THE CULTIVATION OF HEMP AS AN INDUSTRIAL CROP  
THEREBY ESTABLISHING THE INDUSTRIAL HEMP RESEARCH  
AND PROVING FUNDS THEREFORE

Section 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Industrial Hemp Research Act of 2017".

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to promote the growth and development of agriculture as an industry and a source of livelihood to farmers by providing them with viable farming options which would necessarily improve the agribusiness investment climate, thereby increasing the competence and efficiency of the sector as one of the primary backbones of the Philippine economy.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. *Industrial Hemp.* The term "industrial hemp" shall mean the plant *Cannabis sativa L.* and any part of such plant, whether growing or not with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.
- b. *Center.* The term "center" shall mean the Industrial Hemp Research Center which will be established under this Act.
- c. *Hemp Cultivation.* Hemp Cultivation shall mean the act of planting and gathering of raw industrial hemp.
- d. *Hemp Processing.* Hemp Processing shall mean the act of converting raw industrial hemp into industrial by-products. This shall not include the processing of industrial hemp for purposes that will constitute a violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Section 4. *Industrial Hemp Research Center.* There shall be established an Industrial Hemp Research Center under the Department of Agriculture (DA) which shall conduct the appropriate scientific studies and researches that would promote the viability of cultivation of industrial hemp, including the marketing and processing of its industrial by-products.

Under the supervision of the center, state universities and colleges engaged in agricultural programs shall undertake an agricultural pilot study on the viability of growing and cultivating industrial hemp.

Section 5. *Allowable Industrial Hemp Cultivation and Hemp Processing.* No person, partnership, corporation, association or institution may engage in the cultivation and processing of industrial hemp unless allowed by the center.

The center in coordination with the Dangerous Drugs Board shall establish strict guidelines on the proper cultivation, application and uses of industrial hemp.

The center in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) shall establish an enforcement and monitoring unit which shall strictly monitor persons, partnerships, associations and institutions engaged in industrial hemp cultivation and processing.

As far as practicable, only agricultural lands not utilized for the production of rice, corn, sugar and other critical agricultural products may be used for the cultivation of industrial hemp.

Section 6. *Industrial Hemp Marketing and Promotion.* The center in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall engage in the marketing and promotion of industrial hemp and its by-products. The center, DA and DTI shall ensure the availability of market linkages for industrial hemp and its by-products.

Section 7. *Liability for violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.* Nothing in this law shall be construed to allow any person, partnership, corporation or institution to cultivate and process industrial hemp other than that allowed by the center nor shall it be allowed under this law to cultivate any plant or process any substance which are prohibited under the Republic Act No. 9165 otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 and its amendments.

Any commission of an act prohibited under this law shall be prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. If the violation or offense is committed by a corporation, partnership, association or other juridical entities, the penalty shall be imposed upon the directors, officers, employees or other officials or persons therein responsible for the offense.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly

Section 9. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Adopted,