

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0845.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

SENATE BILL 17-117

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coram, Cooke

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Catlin and Valdez,

Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CONFIRMATION THAT INDUSTRIAL HEMP IS A**
102 **RECOGNIZED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT FOR WHICH A PERSON**
103 **WITH A WATER RIGHT DECREED FOR AGRICULTURAL USE MAY**
104 **USE THE WATER SUBJECT TO THE WATER RIGHT FOR INDUSTRIAL**
105 **HEMP CULTIVATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

In Colorado, water subject to a water right may be used for the purpose for which the water is decreed. The bill confirms that a person

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

with an absolute or conditional water right decreed for agricultural use may use the water subject to the water right for the growth or cultivation of industrial hemp if the person is registered by the department of agriculture to grow industrial hemp for commercial or research and development purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) In Colorado, industrial hemp is a recognized agricultural
5 product pursuant to article 61 of title 35, Colorado Revised Statutes;

6 (b) Even federal law recognizes the importance of industrial hemp
7 for agricultural purposes by authorizing the use of industrial hemp for
8 agricultural research purposes in section 7606 of the "Agricultural Act of
9 2014", Pub.L. 113-79;

10 (c) As stated in Colorado's Water Plan, protecting the beneficial
11 use of water for agricultural production is one of Colorado's core water
12 values;

13 (d) Given the importance of protecting water use for agricultural
14 production in Colorado and the inclusion of industrial hemp as a valued
15 agricultural product, it should be recognized that an owner of an
16 agricultural water right shall not be denied use of his or her water right if
17 the water subject to the agricultural water right is used for industrial hemp
18 growth or cultivation.

19 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 37-92-311 as
20 follows:

21 **37-92-311. Industrial hemp cultivation allowed under an**
22 **agricultural water right - definition.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION,
23 UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "INDUSTRIAL HEMP" HAS THE

1 MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 35-61-101 (7).

2 (2) IF A PERSON WITH AN ABSOLUTE OR CONDITIONAL WATER
3 RIGHT DECREED FOR AGRICULTURAL USE IS REGISTERED BY THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO GROW INDUSTRIAL HEMP FOR
5 COMMERCIAL OR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES, AS
6 AUTHORIZED UNDER ARTICLE 61 OF TITLE 35, THE PERSON MAY USE THE
7 WATER SUBJECT TO THE AGRICULTURAL WATER RIGHT FOR THE GROWTH
8 OR CULTIVATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 61
9 OF TITLE 35.

10 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
11 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.