

Kentucky Hemp Association July 2025 Newsletter

The Kentucky Hemp Association would like to give a HUGE thanks to Senator Rand Paul. He was able to block the agriculture appropriations bill that had language to ban hemp-derived products with pretty much any amount of THC in them. The following language will be **removed** from the bill:

Purpose. To preserve lawful hemp commerce while protecting consumers from high-THC intoxicants.

In the bill, strike section 703(b) and insert the following:

SEC. 703. Definition of hemp.

Section 297A(1) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639o(1)) is amended—

1. by striking “0.3 percent” each place it appears and inserting “1 percent”;
2. by redesignating the existing text as subparagraph (A) and adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(B) Final-form testing.— For purposes of determining compliance with this Act, the delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of hemp shall be measured on the finished consumer product and not on raw floral material.

“(C) Hemp-derived consumer product limits.— No hemp-derived consumer product intended for human or animal consumption may contain—

“(i) more than 1 milligram total tetrahydrocannabinols per individual serving; or

“(ii) more than 10 milligrams total tetrahydrocannabinols in the aggregate per retail package.

“(D) Labeling.— Each consumer product described in subparagraph (C) shall display on its principal display panel, in a font size not smaller than 8-point, the statement ‘Contains ____ mg total THC per serving; ____ mg total THC per package.’

“(E) Rule of construction.— Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent a State, territory, or Indian Tribe from establishing tetrahydrocannabinol limits that are more restrictive than those set forth in subparagraph (C).”*

SEC. 704. Prohibition on synthetic tetrahydrocannabinols.

(a) In general.— It shall be unlawful to manufacture, sell, or distribute in interstate commerce any hemp-derived product that contains a synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol or an artificially derived isomer thereof.

(b) Definition.— In this section, the term “synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol” means any cannabinoid produced by chemical conversion that is not naturally expressed in the *Cannabis sativa* L. plant.

SEC. 705. Conforming amendments.

The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

“(1) in section 102(17), by striking ‘0.3 percent’ and inserting ‘1 percent’; and

“(2) in section 401(b), by inserting after ‘marihuana’ the following: ‘, other than hemp as defined in section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946’.”

SEC. 706. Effective date. The amendments made by this subtitle shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 707. Sense of Congress. It is the sense of Congress that small and independent farmers benefit from clear, consistent, and science-based regulation of hemp and hemp-derived products.

This is a huge relief! If this had passed, it would have devastated the United States’ hemp industry. Whitney Economics estimates that US farmers currently supply the raw materials for a hemp consumable market valued at \$28.4 billion, supporting 328,000 jobs in agriculture and retail, generating more than \$13 billion in employment impact and contributing \$1.5 billion in state tax revenues. Kentucky has the ideal soil and climate for growing hemp and outranks every other state in hemp production. According to the USDA, in 2024 Kentucky harvested 2,700 acres of hemp. Reported by the World Population Review, Kentucky produced 2.6 million pounds of hemp.

According to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the vast majority (87%) of hemp production in Kentucky is for extracts like CBD and other cannabinoids. Even the most non-intoxicating hemp products contain a trace amount of THC. Millions of Americans rely on these products to help them live a higher quality of life.

The hemp industry supports common sense regulations such as testing, packaging & consumer information standards, as well as restricting the sale of hemp-derived THC products to adults 21 and older. Most also support a ban of synthetic cannabinoids, but it is important that our determination of what is a naturally-occurring cannabinoid versus synthetic is science-based.

In 2023, Governor Beshear along with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Cabinet for Health & Family Services established common sense hemp regulations so we would have a safe, thriving hemp industry in Kentucky, but we need to stay aware the federal government seeks to ban the majority of hemp products. Senator Mitch McConnell has been pushing to close the “loophole” that allowed hemp-derived THC products and will continue to try as long as he is in office.

The Kentucky Hemp Association’s President, Dee Dee Taylor, wrote an op-ed to Mitch McConnell in the Courier Journal:

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/contributors/2025/07/22/kentucky-mcconnell-hemp-ban-kids-weed-thc/85305889007/>

How can you help support our hemp industry in Kentucky?

Spread the word, share this newsletter, reach out to your state and federal representatives to let them know you support the hemp industry and its products and encourage your customers, colleagues and supporters to do the same. Contribute to the Kentucky Hemp Association.

Money raised helps to pay for our lobbyists who are our first line of information and defense against those trying to put us out of business.

Join us at Fancy Farm this Saturday August 2nd and let your voice be heard! Fancy Farm takes place at St. Jerome Catholic Church. The church is located at 20 Ky. Route 339 North in Fancy Farm, located in Graves County. Great way to talk to legislators, just remember to be respectful.

Also, please reach out directly to us at <https://kyhempassociation.org/contact/> with any questions or concerns. We appreciate your membership and continued support.