

SENATE BILL 455: Conform Hemp with Federal Law.

2021-2022 General Assembly

June 1, 2022 Committee: Date: **Introduced by:** Sens. Britt, Mohammed, Lee **Prepared by:** Kyle Evans **Analysis of:** Third Edition

Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 455 would conform North Carolina hemp laws with federal law by permanently excluding hemp from the State Controlled Substances Act.

This act would become effective June 30, 2022.

BACKGROUND & BILL ANALYSIS:

In August of 2021, the Industrial Hemp Commission submitted a resolution pursuant to S.L. 2015-299 that the State pilot program is no longer necessary because the United States Congress has removed industrial hemp from the federal Controlled Substances Act and the provisions of that act, including the State Controlled Substances Act exception, expire at the end of the fiscal year in which that resolution was submitted. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently operating the State's hemp program through the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program. Making the exception for hemp permanent would allow USDA to continue operating the State's hemp program.

S455 would make permanent the exception for hemp in the definition of marijuana in the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act (CSA), which is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2022, and specifically exclude tetrahydrocannabinols found in hemp or hemp products from the CSA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective June 30, 2022.

