

**House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development  
and  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development**

Minutes of Joint Meeting  
2019 - 2020 Interim  
December 12, 2019

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Clay Schexnayder, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Clay Schexnayder, chairman  
Representative John F. "Andy" Anders, vice chairman  
Representative Ryan Bourriaque  
Representative Ken Brass  
Representative Terry R. Brown  
Representative Charles R. Chaney  
Representative Jerry Gisclair  
Representative John E. Guinn  
Representative H. Bernard LeBas  
Representative John M. Stefanski  
Representative Christopher Turner

**HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier  
Representative Julie Emerson  
Representative Frank A. Howard  
Representative Wayne McMahan  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Steve E. Pylant

**SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator James R. Fannin, vice chairman  
Senator R.L. "Bret" Allain, II  
Senator Gerald Long  
Senator Barrow Peacock  
Senator Neil Riser  
Senator John R. Smith  
Senator Mike Walsworth, ex officio

**SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Francis C. Thompson, chairman

**HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tyler McCloud, attorney  
Su King, senior analyst  
Trinicia Bryant, committee administrative assistant

**SENATE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Curry Lann, attorney  
Candace Shields, senior secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Faye Talbot, House sergeant at arms  
Eugene LeDoux, Senate sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION****To consider the approval of the state plan to monitor and regulate the production of industrial hemp**

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on the state plan to monitor and regulate the production of industrial hemp.

Amanda LaGroue, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on the proposed plan.

Lester Cannon, director, Seed Programs Division, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on the proposed plan.

Representative Schexnayder asked Commissioner Strain to provide the committee with an update with regard to USDA changes to the state plan. Commissioner Strain informed the committee that the state plan was submitted to the USDA pursuant to Act 164 of the 2019 Regular Session on October 15, 2019. The state plan has been preliminarily approved and is one of the first plans in the United States to be preliminarily approved. Due to the federal rule being more restrictive than the 2018 Farm Bill and the state's initial draft plan, the USDA ordered changes to the plan. The USDA changes to the state plan shall include the level of THC and THCA, specific guidelines for testing and lab procedures, that all key participants must have background checks, measurement of

uncertainty guidelines, culpable degree of non-negligence consequences, and that any change in business must be communicated within 15 days of the change.

Commissioner Strain further stated that each lab is required to have a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) License and a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license. The state of Louisiana has received the CDS license. Commissioner Strain informed the committee he applied for the DEA license under his name, and the license will be for the lab and give authorization to test schedule 1 drugs. He concluded by stating the additional changes regarding seed procedures, applicant information, employer identification numbers, and reporting compliance guidelines for the USDA.

Representative LeBas and Commissioner Strain discussed the THC and THCA percentage levels with regard to negligent acts.

Senator Riser asked if production and farm loans would be able to take place in the upcoming farm year. Commissioner Strain replied by stating that when the state plan is approved by both the USDA and the House and Senate committees, licenses can be issued to growers to obtain seeds, to transport, and to process. He also stated that banks will be able to do business with farmers as well.

Senator Peacock commended both Representative Schexnayder and Commissioner Strain for their work on the hemp legislation.

Representative Anders and Commissioner Strain discussed crop variety, crop testing, THC limits, acreage, and plot numbers.

Representative Gisclair expressed concern regarding the transferability of the DEA and CDS licenses. Commissioner Strain stated that the CDS license is for a physical lab whereas the DEA license is specific to him, and any successor would need to reapply for a DEA license.

Representative LeBas inquired about the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC) being in charge of permitting for retail sales and how that could be changed. Commissioner Strain stated that Act 164 of the 2019 Regular Session gives the ATC authority, and any changes must be made through the legislative process.

Representative Turner offered a motion to approve the state plan to monitor and regulate production of industrial hemp. The administrative assistant called the roll. The motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Bourriaque, Brass, Terry Brown, Chaney, Gisclair, Guinn, Hill, LeBas, Stefanski, and Turner voted yea.

Senator Riser offered a motion to vote to approve the state plan to monitor and regulate production of industrial hemp. The administrative assistant called the roll. The motion passed by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Senators Fannin, Long, Peacock, Riser, and Smith voted yea.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Approve minutes from the 2018 Regular Session dated April 18, 2018**

The minutes from the 2018 Regular Session dated April 18, 2018 were presented to the committee for approval. Senator Riser made a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Bourriague, Brass, Terry Brown, Chaney, Gisclair, Guinn, Hill, LeBas, Stefanski, and Turner voted yea. Senators Fannin, Long, Peacock, Riser, and Smith voted yea.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Schexnayder offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Bourriague, Brass, Terry Brown, Chaney, Gisclair, Guinn, Hill, LeBas, Stefanski, and Turner voted yea. Senators Fannin, Long, Peacock, Riser, and Smith voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Clay Schexnayder  
House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

Date approved:

The committee has acknowledged on \_\_\_\_\_, that these minutes were prepared in accordance with the rules of the House of Representatives.