

S 980

Industrial Hemp Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Mar 27, 2023

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Mar 27, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/980>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]	R · IN		Mar 27, 2023
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jun 12, 2023
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jun 12, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 10, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 27, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 3755	Identical bill	Jun 23, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture, and Horticulture.

Industrial Hemp Act of 2023

This bill exempts industrial hemp production from certain inspection and testing requirements. Under current law, the hemp production program requires that all hemp production meet the same inspection and testing requirements.

The bill amends the hemp production programs for a state, Indian tribe, and the Department of Agriculture to (1) establish a separate definition for industrial hemp, (2) require a procedure for hemp producers to designate the type of hemp production as industrial hemp or hemp for any other purpose, and (3) exclude industrial hemp from testing requirements.

Industrial hemp producers are subject to annual visual inspections. If a producer fails a visual inspection, the producer may be (1) required to provide certain documentation on the in-field practices, and (2) subject to chemical testing on harvested material.

Currently, a person with a felony conviction related to a controlled substance is prohibited from participating in the hemp production program for ten years. This bill includes an exception to allow participation by a person producing industrial hemp. However, a person who knowingly produces a crop that is inconsistent with the industrial hemp designation is prohibited from participating in the hemp production program for five years.

The bill also preempts state and tribal law for the regulation of industrial hemp.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 27, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
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