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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2398**

Offered January 18, 2017

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-4117 of the Code of Virginia, relating to industrial hemp; pilot program; license.*

Patron—Pogge

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 3.2-4117 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 3.2-4117. Additional industrial hemp licenses.**

A. The Board may adopt regulations as necessary to license persons to grow industrial hemp in the Commonwealth for any lawful purpose. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 3.2-4115, the Commissioner shall establish an agricultural pilot program and licensing procedure to study the growth, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp, which shall be open to all Virginia landowners. The license shall be valid for three years, and the application fee shall not exceed \$75. The license applicant shall provide the GPS coordinates and the proof of ownership of the land on which industrial hemp is planned to be grown. Once approved, the licensee shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall obtain the required permits and legal agreements to import, store, and distribute certified industrial hemp seed. The Commissioner shall aid the license holder upon request in an expedient manner by pursuing any permits, waivers, or contracts required to facilitate the importation or purchase of certified industrial hemp seed. License holders will bear the financial burden of purchasing certified industrial hemp seed. Processed industrial hemp from this pilot program may be sold within and outside of the Commonwealth.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 3.2-4115 and 3.2-4116, the Commissioner shall establish a program of licensure and renewal, including the establishment of any fees not to exceed \$250, to allow a person to grow industrial hemp in the Commonwealth for any lawful purpose. Valid applications shall be granted licensure within 90 days of receipt of the application. The Commissioner shall accept license applications throughout the year. Licenses shall be valid for four years from the date of the issuance of the license.

INTRODUCED

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