

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2019
Contact: Matthew Dowling
Email: Matthew.Dowling@Senate.Texas.Gov
Phone: 512-463-0128



SEN. CHARLES PERRY FILES BILL TO ALLOW FARMERS TO GROW HEMP
Texas Farm Bureau Backs Bill

AUSTIN, TX –Today, State Sen. Charles Perry, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Water & Rural Affairs, filed SB 1240 to allow farmers in Texas to grow hemp. The federal 2018 U.S. Farm Bill gave a clear pathway for states to authorize farmers to grow hemp. Each state must present their own plan to the federal government for approval.

"Hemp products are bought and sold every day in Texas in stores like H-E-B and United. However, farmers in Texas do not get to profit off this production like farmers in 41 other states. Why should our hardworking farmers not have the same opportunity?" said Sen. Charles Perry.

The Texas Farm Bureau has also offered support for this bill.

"The Texas Farm Bureau believes hemp production is a viable crop option in Texas. We urge the Legislature to remove barriers to its production here," said TFB president Russell Boening. "It is a drought tolerant crop with many uses that can be grown anywhere in our state. Hemp should be another crop option for Texas farmers who are struggling with low commodity prices."

Hemp, as defined by the Farm Bill, may not exceed a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of 0.3%. Due to its low THC content, hemp does not possess the ability to create psychoactive or intoxicating effects like recreational marijuana which traditionally exceeds a concentration of 10% THC.

Sen. Perry continued, "This bill requires a farmer to go through a background check, obtain a license, and have a 3rd party test their crop to ensure that THC levels stay very very low. Anyone who abuses the system could have their crop destroyed and lose their license."

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