EMERGENCY RESCISSION

2 CSR 70-17.040 Industrial Hemp Pilot Program Grower and Handler Registration Agreement. This rule is being rescinded as the requirements set forth in the statute were removed.

PURPOSE: This rule explained the grower and handler registration agreement requirements.

EMERGENCY STATEMENT: This emergency rescission informs the public of what provisions are necessary for the efficient and effective implementation of the Industrial Hemp Program. The department believes this emergency rescission is necessary to serve a compelling governmental interest in order to implement the regulatory framework for industrial hemp production in Missouri. Emergency rules are necessary to issue registrations and permits in preparation for the 2020 growing season. The Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) shall promulgate rules for the registration and permitting of persons for the production of industrial hemp. MDA must maintain a list of registered producers and agricultural hemp propagule and seed permit holders that produce, sell, distribute, or offer for sale viable industrial hemp. MDA must provide the list of registered producers and permit holders to the Missouri State Highway Patrol for verification of legal production of industrial hemp. MDA rulemaking authority also allows for the inspection and sampling of any hemp crop to determine if a crop contains a legally allowable tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration in accordance with the federal Controlled Substances Act under 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et. seq. MDA must also promulgate rules for: application requirements for registration and permitting; industrial hemp plant monitoring systems; testing requirements to ensure that the hemp does not exceed the legal limit of delta-9 THC; and registration and permit revocation, refusal protocols, and civil penalties for violations of these provisions. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a minimum of five hundred (500) persons will be registered to produce industrial hemp as a result of meeting the requirements for a registration or permit. No person may legally possess viable industrial hemp under the authorizing statute without first obtaining a producer registration or agricultural hemp propagule and seed permit in Missouri. As a result, MDA finds a compelling governmental interest which requires this emergency rule-making. The scope of this emergency rescission is limited to the circumstances creating the emergency and complies with the protections extended in the Missouri and United States Constitutions. MDA believes this emergency rescission is fair to all interested parties under the circumstances. A proposed rescission covering this same material was published in the November 1, 2019, issue of the Missouri Register (44 MoReg 2672). This emergency rescission was filed December 17, 2019, becomes effective January 2, 2020, and expires June 29, 2020.


PUBLIC COST: This emergency rescission will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred dollars ($500) in the aggregate.