



State Reps. [Bobby Outten](#), [Dave Wilson](#), [Charles Postles](#) & [Jeff Spiegelman](#) joined Gov. Carney at the Delaware Public Archives as Senate Bill 266 was signed into law. All four legislators successfully supported the measure's passage through the House of Representatives.

## **NEWS:**

### **Clearing the Way for Growing a Banned Crop**

**AUGUST 30, 2018** – A new law will soon allow Delaware farmers to engage in the cultivation of a crop that has not been legal to grow in The First State for more than 80 years.

Hemp was inappropriately criminalized under the federal Marijuana Tax Act of 1937. While it is a variety of cannabis, hemp contains insufficient concentrations of the psychoactive chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to create any intoxicating effect.

Ironically, while growing hemp in the U.S. has been prohibited, the importation of hemp products has been legal. Hemp fabrics, paper, cosmetics, animal feed, nutritional supplements, and beverages are sold in many American stores and online.

Signed into law by Gov. John Carney on Tuesday, [the Industrial Hemp Cultivation Act](#) (Senate Bill 266) permits the Delaware Department of Agriculture to adopt any policies and regulations necessary for facilitating hemp cultivation when federal law permits it.

The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have each passed versions of the federal Farm Bill containing a provision to legalize industrial hemp cultivation. The bill is now in a conference committee to reconcile the differences between the two.

"This is a grand-slam for Delaware," said State Sen. Anthony Delcollo, R-Elsmere, the prime sponsor of the Industrial Hemp Cultivation Act. "The far-reaching economic implications this crop will have on our state's economy are tremendous. Hemp is used in cosmetics, textiles, fibers, and even certain foods. With the newly-established DuPont spin-off, Corteva, investing in our downstate communities ... I firmly believe this product can drive new markets."

This is not the first time the General Assembly has dealt with this issue. State Rep. Dave Wilson, R-Cedar Creek Hundred, authored a 2014 state law establishing a framework for Delaware colleges and universities to conduct industrial hemp research.

"Hemp should grow well in Delaware and could lead to a cottage industry of businesses that cultivate hemp for making their own products," said Rep. Wilson, who is also a prime sponsor of the Industrial Hemp Cultivation Act. "At least five states and two dozen nations, including Canada, already grow hemp. I am glad Delaware is joining this group, giving our farmers another valuable crop option."

The new law had broad, bipartisan support in the state legislature, clearing the capitol with only one dissenting vote.