

Georgia's Hemp Regulation Bill: What's Next for CBD and Delta-8 THC?

A bill awaiting Governor Brian Kemp's signature in Georgia seeks to regulate hemp products, filling a void in consumer protection. Sponsored by Sen. Sam Watson, the legislation aims to subject hemp-derived products like CBD and delta-8 to testing requirements, restrict sales to individuals 21 and older, and enforce labeling standards. However, opponents are raising concerns about potential loopholes and unintended consequences.

Deadline Approaches

With the legislative session concluded, the bill now sits on the governor's desk awaiting action. Gov. Kemp has until May 7 to decide whether to sign, veto, or let it become law without his signature. The proposed regulations are part of what Watson sees as necessary measures to ensure public safety and bring hemp products in line with existing regulations for tobacco, alcohol, and food.

Protecting Youth

Central to the bill's provisions is the protection of minors. By imposing age restrictions and implementing stringent testing and labeling requirements, lawmakers hope to prevent accidental consumption of marijuana products by children. Watson emphasizes the urgency of addressing the issue, particularly in light of unregulated sales in convenience stores.

Opposition and Concerns

Critics, however, are urging the governor to reject the bill, arguing that it effectively legalizes the sale of marijuana by failing to adequately address synthetic cannabinoids like delta-8. Gaylor Lopez of the Georgia Poison Center warns of the dangers posed by these substances, which can cause adverse effects, especially in children. Additionally, industry stakeholders fear that increased regulation could stifle small businesses and limit consumer access.

Call for Comprehensive Solutions

While supporters tout the bill as a significant step forward, opponents contend that it falls short of providing comprehensive consumer protection. They call for stricter regulations to address the synthetic manipulation of hemp and close existing loopholes. Concerns also extend to potential overreach by law enforcement, raising questions about the practical implementation of the proposed measures.

Looking Ahead

As the deadline for gubernatorial action approaches, stakeholders on both sides await the fate of the legislation. Regardless of the outcome, the debate surrounding hemp regulation in Georgia underscores the

complexities of balancing consumer safety, industry interests, and law enforcement priorities. Moving forward, advocates and policymakers will continue to grapple with these challenges in pursuit of effective and equitable regulatory frameworks.

Email: info@cannabisriskmanager.com | Phone: +415-226-4060

© Copyright 2025 Cannabis Risk Manager. All Rights Reserved