## **DIGEST**

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HB 395 Original

2020 Regular Session

Romero

**Abstract:** Authorizes McNeese State University to conduct research on state-regulated industrial hemp.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes the La. State University Agricultural Center (LSU Ag Center) and the Southern University Agricultural Center (SU Ag Center) to cultivate, handle, and process industrial hemp and industrial hemp seeds for research and development of new varieties.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and adds McNeese State University to the list of schools authorized to conduct industrial hemp research.

<u>Present law</u> exempts the LSU Ag Center and the SU Ag Center from licensure requirements and criminal penalties in <u>present law</u> relative to industrial hemp and hemp seed producers, growers, and contract carriers when those institutions perform industrial hemp research as authorized by <u>present</u> law.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and exempts McNeese State University from licensure requirements and criminal penalties when engaged in research of industrial hemp as authorized by proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 3:1465(F), 1469(A), and 1471(C))