

ORDINANCE NO. 4487

**ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10A.15A.030 OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY CODE
MODIFYING CERTAIN DEFINITIONS RELATED TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, State of California, ordains as follows:

Section 1. Section 10A.15A.030 of the Mendocino County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 10A.15.030 - Definitions.

- (A) "Agricultural Commissioner" means the Agricultural Commissioner of Mendocino County.
- (B) "DNA" or "deoxyribonucleic acid" means a nucleic acid that is present in every cell of an organism and is the "blueprint" for the organism's development.
- (C) "Genetically modified organism" means an organism, or the genetic descendant of an organism, which has been altered by genetic engineering, including, but not limited to, organisms whose native intrinsic DNA has been intentionally altered or amended with same-species and/or non-species specific DNA.
- (D) "Genetic engineering" means altering or amending the genetic material of an organism by using (1) methods such as gene deletion, gene doubling, introducing a foreign gene, or changing the position of genes, including cell fusion, microencapsulation, macroencapsulation, gene splicing, and other similar processes; or (2) gene editing systems, such as CRISPR-Cas9, which directly edits DNA within an organism without necessarily inserting new genes. For purposes of this Chapter, genetic engineering does not include techniques such as traditional selective breeding, conjugation, transduction, fermentation, hybridization, in vitro fertilization, tissue culture, or to microorganisms created by moving genes or gene segments between unrelated bacteria; provided, however, that the use of genetically modified organisms in any of the preceding techniques does constitute genetic engineering.
- (E) "Organism" means any biological entity capable of replication, reproduction, or transferral of genetic material.

Section 2. **Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, State of California, on this 23rd day of February, 2021, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors McGourty, Mulheren, Haschak, Gjerde, and Williams
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared the Ordinance passed and adopted and **SO ORDERED**.

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CHRISTIAN M. CURTIS,
County Counsel

DAN GJERDE, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

Deputy