



Rachel Gillette

Partner  
303.295.8241  
Denver  
rgillette@hollandhart.com



Jennifer Benda

Partner  
303.295.8203  
Denver  
jebenda@hollandhart.com

# the buzz: Cannabis News & Policy Update | January 2026

## Insight — January 23, 2026

Welcome back to *the buzz*, our monthly cannabis news and policy update. Your at-a-glance source for regulatory developments, agency announcements, and trends impacting the cannabis industry.

In this edition of *the buzz*, highlights include:

- **Federal momentum shifts:** Executive Order directing DOJ to expedite marijuana rescheduling to Schedule III has no timeline; Smart Approaches to Marijuana vows to challenge
- **New market milestones:** KY launches first legal medical sales after 3-year wait; VA preps for adult-use commerce with July licensing applications and November sales
- **Tax battles intensify:** MI's new 24% wholesale tax faces court challenges; ME bumps adult-use sales tax to 14% but cuts cultivation taxes
- **Hemp regulations tighten:** MI moves intoxicating hemp into regulated cannabis market; TX proposes consumable hemp regulations; NM adopts new hemp rules; OH restricts intoxicating hemp sales to dispensaries
- **Markets under threat:** Repeal initiatives targeting existing adult-use programs advance in AZ, ME, and MA—signature collection underway for 2026 ballots; FL legalization ballot initiative challenged in court

[Read Here](#)

### Want *the buzz* delivered monthly?

Never miss a cannabis news and policy update. Use the button below to sign up for future monthly newsletters.

[Sign Up](#)

---

*Subscribe to get our Insights delivered to your inbox.*

*This publication is designed to provide general information on pertinent legal topics. The statements made are provided for educational purposes only. They do not constitute legal or financial advice nor do they necessarily reflect the views of Holland & Hart LLP or any of its attorneys other than the author(s). This publication is not intended to create an*

*attorney-client relationship between you and Holland & Hart LLP. Substantive changes in the law subsequent to the date of this publication might affect the analysis or commentary. Similarly, the analysis may differ depending on the jurisdiction or circumstances. If you have specific questions as to the application of the law to your activities, you should seek the advice of your legal counsel.*