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the buzz: Cannabis News & Policy Update | January 2026

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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

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