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the buzz: Cannabis News & Policy Update | February 2026

Insight — February 20, 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:

- **Rescheduling still stalled:** More than a month after Trump directed AG Bondi to act "in the most expeditious manner," DOJ reports no new updates on marijuana rescheduling.
- **280E grip tightens:** CRS report opines 280E fully enforceable while cannabis stays Schedule I.
- **New market watch—PA yes, FL no:** Gov. Shapiro includes adult-use legalization in PA's budget for 3rd year. FL's ballot initiative collapses after failing to gather required signatures.
- **State policy roundup:** ME's repeal initiative misses 2026 ballot; OH's AG sues nine MSOs for antitrust violations; OK Gov. pushes to let voters repeal state's medical program; NJ law opens door to 322 new retail locations.
- **Hemp & taxes:** Bipartisan HEMP Act introduced federally; Chicago moves to restrict hemp sales to licensed cannabis businesses; NE gov. targets synthetic THC via exec order; CO, VT, and WA all advance cannabis tax reform legislation.

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