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

### Insight — April 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:

- **Historic rescheduling — with a catch:** Acting AG Todd Blanche signed an order moving state-licensed medical marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III under the CSA, the biggest federal cannabis policy shift in 50+ years. Adult-use? Still Schedule I, for now.
- **280E relief — complicated:** The order signals relief for state medical licensees, but questions remain on timing and whether federal registration is required first. For adult-use operators, conflicting language in the order leaves their status totally unresolved.
- **State markets in motion:** VA's governor proposed amendments to its adult-use bill ahead of an April 22 reconvening; MA overhauled its CCC entirely; NC issued interim recs to legalize adult-use; TX awarded three new medical licenses.
- **Hemp crackdown accelerating:** MO passed a bill adopting the federal hemp definition, effectively reclassifying many hemp products as marijuana; TX courts temporarily blocked new consumable hemp regs; MN reopened hemp edible license applications.
- **CLIMB Act introduced, FDA CBD rules nearing:** Bipartisan CLIMB Act would open traditional lending to state-legal cannabis businesses; separately, OIRA review signals an FDA CBD enforcement policy is close to dropping.
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