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the buzz: Cannabis News & Policy Update | May 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:

- **Rescheduling moves forward—but not without a fight:** The DEA opened federal registration for state-licensed dispensaries, while SAM and former AG Bill Barr are already in court trying to stop it.
- **280E on trial:** Petitioner files a reply brief in New Mexico Top Organics, leaning into the DOJ's recent rescheduling order to support its arguments. Meanwhile, DOJ is suing to claw back an \$8.36M refund from TerrAscend.
- **New markets and licensing shake-ups:** TX rescored its medical marijuana license applications, flipping which companies got conditional licenses. VA sent its adult-use bill back to the governor's desk.
- **State policy updates:** AZs repeal effort folds, leaving MA as the last state with an active repeal initiative. CT swaps its potency tax for a flat excise tax. GA expands its low-THC program.
- **Hemp crackdown continues:** AK enforces new hemp restrictions, TX courts keep DSHS hemp regs on hold, and Target rolls out THC beverages to 300+ stores.

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