



Jennifer Benda

Partner
303.295.8203
Denver
jebenda@hollandhart.com



Rachel Gillette

Partner
303.295.8241
Denver
rkgillette@hollandhart.com

the buzz: Cannabis News & Policy Update | July 2026

Insight — July 28, 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 fight intensifies:** DOJ defends the medical marijuana rescheduling order against opponents' emergency stay, as two cannabis businesses move to intervene; the DEA wraps an administrative hearing stacked with opponents.
- **SAFE Banking returns:** Sen. Merkley refiles the SAFE Banking Act with a bipartisan coalition, and the American Bankers Association urges prompt committee action, arguing banking access would reduce cash-related public-safety risks.
- **New markets in motion:** VA authorizes adult-use sales starting July 2027 with a \$10M medical-conversion path; MO opens a 77-license microbusiness round; NE approves its first cultivator under narrow rules.
- **State policy roundup:** The MA Dept. of Revenue reads the state's 280E decoupling narrowly, hitting MSOs' combined returns, while WY keeps marijuana on state Schedule I despite the federal rescheduling order.
- **Hemp definition under pressure:** OMB signals White House support for revising or delaying the new federal hemp definition before its Nov. 12 deadline; the National Restaurant Association seeks a two-year beverage-ban delay; OH, NC, and DE advance divergent state frameworks.

[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.