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the buzz: Cannabis News & Policy Update | August 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:

- **Hemp definition delayed—for now:** Senate CR (if enacted) will push back key portions of the new federal hemp definition to Dec. 11, but the synthetic cannabinoid ban still hits November 12
- **Rescheduling grinds forward:** DEA wraps its hearing with briefs due August 17 and no set deadline for the judge's report; SAM fights to keep cannabis businesses out of the D.C. Circuit litigation
- **280E & the new AG:** Newly confirmed AG Todd Blanche sidesteps rescheduling and 280E questions; in NM Top Organics, IRS argues April rescheduling order offers no retroactive relief
- **State Markets in flux:** MA to vote on ballot measure to eliminate licensed adult-use sales; UT accepting rural medical cannabis pharmacy licenses applications through Sept. 2; NE's first medical licenses expected Sept.
- **Hemp patchwork widens:** DE greenlights THC beverages; hemp industry sues MO over its new limits; NC delays its hemp bill; TX reinstates Schedule I language

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