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the buzz: Cannabis News & Policy Update | September 2026

Insight — September 17, 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:

- **Hemp definition partially delayed:** A continuing resolution pushes key portions of the new federal hemp definition to December 11, but the synthetic cannabinoid ban still takes effect November 12; lawmakers may attach a hemp regulatory framework to year-end legislation, though the White House signals no further delays.
- **Rescheduling advances:** The DEA released its administrative hearing transcript and final briefs were filed; the DC Circuit rejected a bid to block medical marijuana rescheduling and denied two companies' motion to intervene; a bipartisan group of lawmakers requested further guidance from the administration.
- **280E deference fight:** NM Top Organics and the IRS filed final briefs disputing whether the AG Order controls under *Loper Bright*—and whether it applies retroactively to Section 280E.
- **New markets open up:** AL opens its second medical dispensary; NE's Supreme Court upholds its 2024 medical initiatives; RI reopens retail and social equity licensing to add 24 new storefronts.
- **State policy roundup:** CO adopts final anti-diversion rules (eff. Nov. 1); CA signs AB 2249 targeting child-attractive packaging; CT flattens its excise tax to 10.75% (eff. Oct. 1); GA proposes delivery and other program rules; MI eyes repeal of its 24% wholesale tax; IL rolls out medical licensing for adult-use operators; NV's Cannabis Tax Permit deadline passes; NM transitions to a new seed-to-sale system.
- **Hemp litigation:** A new challenge to Texas hemp testing rules is filed in Travis County; the plaintiffs' request for a temporary restraining order is denied.

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