

2026

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GROWN IN POLICY TRACKER

Illinois Hemp Beverage Regulation Tracker

Starts with what is ahead, then works backward through the key Illinois statutory, administrative, and legislative markers shaping the hemp beverage lane.

What this tracker does

A practical snapshot for operators, investors, policy readers, and advisors tracking how Illinois may regulate hemp beverages and adjacent hemp-derived cannabinoid products.

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Prepared as an editorial policy tracker,
not legal advice.

At a Glance

This tracker focuses on Illinois hemp beverages and adjacent hemp-derived cannabinoid products. It is organized from what is ahead back through the statutory and rule foundation that brought the market to this point.

1. Federal pressure point

A federal definition change is scheduled to take effect on November 12, 2026. It shifts hemp to a total-THC standard including THCA and excludes certain final cannabinoid products above 0.4 mg combined total per container.

2. Illinois decision point

Illinois has multiple live 2026 proposals. The policy fight is no longer whether to regulate intoxicating hemp products, but which model wins: hemp-specific, cannabis-adjacent, or liquor-style.

3. Current operating baseline

In the official Illinois sources reviewed here, the active baseline remains the Industrial Hemp Act plus 8 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1200, including the December 23, 2024 amendments.

What is operative now

In the current Illinois administrative code, Part 1200 permits the sale or transfer of certain marketable hemp products, including floral and plant extracts excluding THC above 0.3%, to members of the general public. The same Part bars shipment or transport of any hemp product with total delta-9 THC above 0.3% on a dry-weight basis, and states there is no State restriction on transportation of industrial hemp product following retail sale to a member of the public.

Three policy lanes now appear visible

Conformity lane

SB 3820

State law moves toward the new federal line.

Hemp-products lane

SB 3377 / SB 3919

Illinois creates a broader consumer-products framework with testing, labeling, age gates, and packaging rules.

Liquor-style lane

HB 5452

Illinois places beverages inside a liquor-style control structure for mainstream retail channels.

What Is Ahead

Start here. These are the forward-looking pressure points most likely to reshape the Illinois hemp beverage lane.

**11/12/
2026**

Federal change
scheduled

New federal hemp line becomes effective

Under the federal change reflected in Public Law 119-37, the hemp definition moves to a total tetrahydrocannabinols standard that expressly includes THCA. The amended text also excludes certain final hemp-derived cannabinoid products containing more than 0.4 milligrams combined total per container. For hemp beverages, that is the single biggest forward compliance pressure point in the tracker.

Source: Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended through P.L. 119-37; amendments to section 297A effective Nov. 12, 2026.

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Active Senate bill

SB 3820 would conform Illinois law to the federal change

SB 3820 would amend the Illinois Industrial Hemp Act and related provisions to conform State law to the new federal language, and it would direct the Department of Agriculture to adopt conforming rules within 12 months of the bill's effective date. As of March 31, 2026, the bill's status page shows it in Senate Cannabis after Executive.

Source: Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 3820, synopsis and actions.

2026

Active Senate bill

SB 3919 would split compliant hemp from 'intoxicating hemp'

SB 3919 would revise definitions to conform to federal law, add definitions including Illinois hemp for human consumption, intoxicating hemp, and synthetic hemp product, require testing, labeling, child-resistant packaging, and branding restrictions, and prohibit sales of hemp products intended for human consumption to anyone under 21.

Source: Illinois General Assembly bill status and full text pages for SB 3919.

2026 Proposals

These bills show the competing models Illinois could still choose from.

2026

Active Senate bill

SB 3377 proposes a comprehensive hemp framework

SB 3377 would establish a broad regulatory structure for hemp and hemp-derived cannabinoid products, including licensing, registration, packaging and labeling standards, age verification, laboratory testing, recordkeeping, enforcement, penalties, and a Hemp Social Equity Fund. The synopsis lists an effective date of January 1, 2027.

Source: Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 3377.

2026

Active House bill

HB 5452 would place hemp products inside a liquor-style control structure

HB 5452 would rename the Liquor Control Act as the Liquor and Hemp Products Control Act, establish a Hemp Products Commission within the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, and bar hemp-product sales to persons under 21. This is the clearest current signal of a liquor-style governance model for hemp beverages and related products.

Source: Illinois General Assembly bill status page for HB 5452; synopsis as introduced.

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What it means

Three lanes are visible

By spring 2026, the proposals point to three distinct Illinois directions: conformity lane (SB 3820), hemp-consumer-products lane (SB 3377 / SB 3919), and liquor-style lane (HB 5452). For operators, the real risk is not only whether a bill passes, but how quickly labels, age gates, testing panels, packaging, and retail channels would need to change once one model wins.

Source: Comparative read of the 2026 Illinois bill synopses listed in this report.

2025 Proposals

The 2025 session sharpened the beverage debate and previewed many of the concepts still alive in 2026.

2025

Senate bill

SB 1766 framed hemp beverages almost like a new alcohol category

SB 1766 would have created a Hemp Beverage Commission under the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, imposed beverage-sector taxes and registrations, barred sales to persons under 21, set container and package THC limits, and regulated manufacturing, labeling, testing, and advertising. Its status page shows it re-referred to Assignments on April 11, 2025.

Source: Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 1766.

2025

Senate bill

SB 20 proposed the Hemp Consumer Products Act

SB 20 would have created a separate Hemp Consumer Products Act with licensing, product registration, packaging, labeling, testing, marketing, sale, penalties, and rulemaking by the Department of Agriculture. It also addressed how some hemp-derived intoxicating products could flow into the Illinois cannabis system. In practice, it previewed the broader 'human consumption' framework now resurfacing in 2026.

Source: Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 20.

**10/28/
2025**

Targeted Senate bill

SB 2725 targeted caffeinated hemp beverages

SB 2725 would have prohibited a hemp cannabinoid from being bottled and sold in a package or container that contains caffeine, including ready-to-drink beverages. Even without enactment, it matters because it shows lawmakers focusing on product form and formulation - not just total THC.

Source: Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 2725.

Current Baseline and Foundation

Before the recent bills, Illinois already had a hemp statute, rules, and a history of adapting to federal changes.

**12/23/
2024**

Current rules

Part 1200 was amended and remains the clearest active Illinois rule baseline

Illinois administrative rules under 8 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1200 show an amendment effective December 23, 2024. The Part permits certain marketable hemp products to be sold to the general public, bars shipping any hemp product above 0.3% total delta-9 THC on a dry-weight basis, and says there is no State restriction on transportation of industrial hemp product after retail sale to the public.

Source: 8 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1200, Sections 1200.90, 1200.100, and 1200.110.

2024

Legislative precursor

SB 3926 previewed the later hemp-consumer-products approach

Introduced in April 2024, SB 3926 would have created a Hemp Consumer Products Act with retailer and processor licensing, product labeling, transportation, testing, and enforcement provisions. Even though later bills changed shape, the architecture of the current debate is already visible in this 2024 precursor.

Source: Illinois General Assembly full text of SB 3926 (103rd General Assembly).

2024

Agency / USDA milestone

Illinois says its amended hemp plan was USDA approved in 2024

The Illinois Department of Agriculture's public hemp history page states that Illinois submitted a hemp plan to USDA in 2020, that federal rules changed in 2021, and that Illinois began updating its administrative rules in line with an amended Illinois Hemp Plan that was USDA approved in 2024.

Source: Illinois Department of Agriculture, 'Illinois Hemp: A Brief History.'

Earlier Buildout and Operator Watchlist

**2021-
2022**

Statute + agency
memo

Illinois broadened hemp definitions and clarified processor registration

Public Act 102-0690 updated the Illinois Industrial Hemp Act so hemp includes intermediate or finished products made or derived from industrial hemp. In 2022, an IDOA policy memo also said cannabis businesses using hemp derivatives must obtain a hemp processor registration. The memo is historically useful, though it was framed as time-limited guidance for that context.

Source: Public Act 102-0690; IDOA hemp-cannabis policy memo updated March 3, 2022.

**2018-
2019**

Core legal foundation

Illinois created the modern hemp program

Public Act 100-1091, effective in August 2018, created the Industrial Hemp Act and defined industrial hemp using the 0.3% delta-9 THC dry-weight line. Illinois then adopted program rules under Part 1200, effective April 24, 2019, providing the licensing, processing, testing, sale, transport, and enforcement structure that still matters today.

Source: Public Act 100-1091; 8 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1200 source history.

2015

Pilot era

Illinois first entered hemp through a research pilot

The Illinois Department of Agriculture states that Illinois's Industrial Hemp Pilot Program became effective in 2015, allowing researchers and institutions of higher education to grow hemp for educational and research purposes under the 2014 federal farm bill framework.

Source: Illinois Department of Agriculture, 'Illinois Hemp: A Brief History.'

Operator Watchlist

1. Federal effective date. Watch the November 12, 2026 federal change closely, especially any per-container reading that affects low-dose beverages.
2. Illinois bill movement. Track whether Illinois settles on a hemp-specific, cannabis-adjacent, or liquor-style governance model.
3. Human-consumption rules. Testing panels, child-resistant packaging, age gates, warnings, and child-attractive branding restrictions recur across multiple bills.
4. Channel strategy. A liquor-style model could alter who can manufacture, distribute, and retail beverages, while a hemp-products model may tilt harder toward IDOA licensing, registration, and product-level compliance.

Sources and Methodology

Primary sources were prioritized. Bill descriptions below are based on official Illinois General Assembly status pages or official bill text. Program history and rule baseline are drawn from Illinois Department of Agriculture and official Illinois administrative code materials.

1. U.S. govinfo compilation of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended through Public Law 119-37, including the November 12, 2026 effective amendments to section 297A.
2. Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 3820 (Industrial Hemp-Federal Change).
3. Illinois General Assembly bill status and full text pages for SB 3919 (Regulating Hemp).
4. Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 3377 (Industrial Hemp Act).
5. Illinois General Assembly bill status page for HB 5452 (Liquor and Hemp Products Control Act concept).
6. Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 1766 (Hemp Beverage Commission).
7. Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 20 (Hemp Consumer Products Act).
8. Illinois General Assembly bill status page for SB 2725 (Industrial Hemp-Caffeinated Beverage).
9. 8 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1200, including source note showing amendment effective December 23, 2024, and Sections 1200.90, 1200.100, and 1200.110.
10. Public Act 100-1091 (Industrial Hemp Act).
11. Public Act 102-0690 (amendments to the Industrial Hemp Act).
12. Illinois Department of Agriculture, 'Illinois Hemp: A Brief History.'
13. Illinois Department of Agriculture hemp-cannabis policy memo updated March 3, 2022.

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