

Troutman Pepper Locke Cannabis Communications Newsletter — February 25, 2025

WRITTEN BY

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Troutman Pepper Locke’s Cannabis Practice helps clients throughout their business cycle enter or expand into the cannabis space. Our team combines the resources of attorneys in areas such as licensing and taxation, regulatory compliance, corporate and transactional, intellectual property, and real estate, among others, to provide comprehensive services.

Our Cannabis Practice provides advice on issues related to applicable federal and state law. Cannabis remains an illegal controlled substance under federal law.

CANNABIS REGULATORY UPDATES

VIRGINIA’S PATH TO A REGULATED MARIJUANA MARKET: LEGISLATIVE ADVANCES AND POLITICAL HURDLES

By Jean Smith-Gonnell and Chuck Slemp

The Virginia General Assembly has once again advanced legislation to establish a regulated market for recreational marijuana sales. Virginia is unique in that it allows personal possession of cannabis but bans retail sales outside of medical marijuana dispensaries. The legislation, [HB 2485](#) sponsored by Delegate Paul Krizek, D-Fairfax County, and [SB970](#) by Senator Aaron Rouse, D-Virginia Beach, passed the Democratic-controlled legislature on a party-line vote (53-46 in the House and 21-19 in the Senate). The bills now move on to Virginia’s Governor Glenn Youngkin.

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MISSOURI LEGISLATURE’S PROPOSALS TO REGULATE HEMP-DERIVED CONSUMABLE PRODUCTS

By Jean Smith-Gonnell and Nick Ramos

Last year, we [wrote](#) about the former Missouri governor’s efforts to curb the availability of intoxicating hemp products to Missouri consumers by executive order. There are now several proposed bills in the Missouri legislature that seek to regulate hemp-derived consumable products in the state, a few of which we summarize below. In general, the proposed legislation addresses issues related to youth access, licensing, taxation, advertising and marketing, testing, and labeling. This type of proposed legislation is worth monitoring in Missouri, and other states, as states take more aggressive action to prohibit or regulate the availability of such products to consumers in the absence of a coherent, federal regulatory framework.

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