

HB 346: Authority Over Finished Hemp Products

Gives the Environment Department authority over finished hemp products and synthetic cannabinoids, protecting buyers from purchasing unregulated THC products.



Why does this bill matter?

Right now, a 16-year-old can walk into a New Mexican business and buy a hemp product containing dangerous, unregulated THC – and there’s nothing the State can do about it.

This loophole exists because the Environment Department does not regulate finished hemp products – only the manufacturing process. If a hemp product is manufactured outside of the state and brought in for sale, even if it contains THC, no enforcement action can be taken under the Hemp Manufacturing Act.

HB 346 fixes this by amending the Hemp Manufacturing Act to give the Environment Department authority over finished hemp products at retail, permanently closing the loophole that poses real danger to New Mexicans, often without their knowledge.

This bill also specifically bans the possession and sale of semi-synthetic and synthetic cannabinoids in New Mexico. These designer chemicals, often referred to as “K2” or “spice,” pose significant dangers to users of them, with rates of severe side effects like hallucinations or psychosis being more common than with natural cannabinoids.

In addition, many hemp product labels don’t inform buyers of their synthetic THC content, leading to consumers unknowingly consuming a psychoactive chemical and leading to dangerous consequences.

Finished hemp products containing synthetic cannabinoids also open the door for those under 21 to gain access to THC, as there is no age requirement to buy hemp products in New Mexico.

How will it benefit New Mexico?



Legal Clarity

- ✓ Removes loopholes in the Hemp Manufacturing Act, allowing the Environment Department to effectively enforce on violators.
- ✓ Specifically prohibits dangerous synthetic THC chemicals in New Mexico, making clear what products are legal.



Public Health

- ✓ Protects New Mexicans, including minors, from consuming synthetic cannabinoids, which are known to have more severe side effects than natural cannabis.
- ✓ Ensures hemp buyers know what they’re putting in their body, preventing accidental THC consumption.



Protects Legal Market

- ✓ Safeguards the validity of New Mexico’s legal cannabis industry, which provides jobs for thousands.
- ✓ Prevents legal hemp producers from being undercut by bad actors in the industry.

Sponsors: Representative Andrea Romero and Senator Derrick Lente

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