

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 hemp products containing dangerous, unregulated THC – and there's nothing the State can do about it.

This loophole exists because the Environment Department does not regulate retail hemp products – only products manufactured in New Mexico. 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 hemp finished 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 (synthetics) in New Mexico. These designer chemicals, such as "Delta-8" or "HHC," pose significant dangers to users. The products contain unknown contaminants with severe side effects, like abnormal heart rate or paranoia being more common than with natural cannabinoids.

The US FDA has not approved synthetics for use in products, and along with the CDC, have issued warning letters concerning consumption of products containing them.

In addition, many hemp product labels don't inform buyers of their synthetic THC content, causing consumers to unknowingly consuming a chemically created, psychoactive product leading to dangerous consequences.

How will it benefit New Mexico?



Legal Clarity

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



Public Health

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



Protects Legal Market

- ✓ Safeguards the validity of New Mexico's legal hemp & cannabis industries, 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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