



*2027 Legislative Session Hemp Priorities Licensing and Occupations Committee*  
October 15, 2026

### **1 Restore On-Premise Sales of Hemp Beverages in Kentucky**

On-premise sales of cannabis-infused beverages (CIB) in bars, restaurants and events were outlawed by SB 202 in 2025. The same bill granted an exemption to festivals and fairs, but that exemption expired on January 1, 2026. Today, it is illegal to sell hemp beverages in any bar, restaurant, or event in Kentucky. Significant interest exists with major sports arenas, event venues, music festivals, bars and restaurants to restore this opportunity to offer CIB's for sale to adults in these settings.

#### ***Policy Goal***

- Restore on-premise sales of CIB's at bars, restaurants, and events.
- Allow hemp manufacturers to sample and sell beverages on-premise in the same manner that bourbon distilleries are permitted to.

### **2 Prohibit CIB Open Containers for Operators of Motor Vehicles**

SB 202 failed to ban the consumption of CIB's by operators of motor vehicles. For the purpose of public safety, Cornbread would like to bring this enforcement gap to the attention of the General Assembly to prevent a potential tragedy before it happens.

#### ***Policy Goal***

- Add CIB's to existing prohibitions on open containers of alcohol by operators of motor vehicles.
- Allow existing exemptions to this rule for passengers of motor vehicles.

### **3 Finding Opportunities to Cooperate with Competitive Industries**

Kentucky's regulated industries are natural allies and should not be fighting against each other. Cornbread Hemp sees ourselves as added value to Kentucky's bourbon, craft beer, and medical marijuana industries. We support these industries and their efforts to improve their consumer access in Kentucky, and we reject any attempt by these industries to close opportunities for hemp products in Kentucky.

#### ***Policy Goal***

- Find unity with stakeholders in regulated industries to find common ground in policy solutions to shared problems.
- Reject attempts to use the General Assembly to suppress competition in the free market.

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### *Other Issues Outside L&O Jurisdiction*

#### **4 Licensing Fee Relief (A&R)**

Kentucky's hemp businesses operate under a regulated framework overseen by multiple state agencies. While regulation is necessary, current licensing and renewal costs can disproportionately burden compliant small businesses. CIB retail license from ABC is \$2,000, and intoxicating hemp edible retail license from Department of Public Health (DPH) is an additional \$2,000 – resulting in \$4,000 in license fees for some small businesses in Kentucky. For context, a quota package liquor license in Kentucky is \$570.

##### ***Policy Goal***

- Reduce the hemp beverage (CIB) retail fee from \$2,000 to \$570.
- Reduce the intoxicating hemp edible license from \$2,000 to \$570.
- Reduce the CIB direct shipper license from \$1,000 to \$100.

#### **5 Protecting the Medicare CBD Pilot Program (Health & Family Services)**

The Medicare CBD pilot program authorized on April 1 allows for full spectrum CBD products with up to 3mg THC per serving to be distributed to certain Medicare beneficiaries through their primary care providers.

##### ***Policy Goal***

- Ensure that Kentucky's primary care providers and Accountable Care Organizations (ACO's) feel comfortable implementing this pilot program for the benefit of Kentucky seniors and hemp farmers.

#### **6 Updating Farming Rules for Floral, Fiber and Grain (Agriculture)**

Kentucky's hemp rules need an update after more than 10 years on the books. Lines need to be better drawn between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services on oversight and enforcement of hemp processing.

##### ***Policy Goal***

- Deconflict double regulation on processing stage (KDA & CHFS)
- Modernize background check process
- Change state definition of hemp to reflect upcoming changes in federal definitions