



# Texas Implements Ban on Smokable Cannabis Sales

## Description

Smokable cannabis products must be removed from Texas stores by the end of the month due to new regulations from the state's health department. These changes could significantly affect the hemp industry, as many companies may struggle with increased costs.

While the new rules allow nearly all edible hemp products, they add stricter packaging and testing requirements. Initially proposed higher fees for retailers and manufacturers have been reduced but still represent a substantial increase, likely leading to raised prices for consumers or driving some businesses to close.

These regulations originated from recommendations made in December, influenced by an executive order from Governor Greg Abbott. The Texas Legislature was unable to reach a consensus on stricter regulations or outright bans of THC products.

The Texas Department of State Health Services announced that the rules will come into effect on March 31. The new regulations will effectively prohibit the sale of smokable hemp by altering how Delta-9 THC, the main psychoactive substance in cannabis, is measured.

Under the state's 2019 hemp law, cannabis with up to 0.3% Delta-9 by dry weight is classified as legal hemp. The adopted rules introduce a "total THC" calculation that includes THCA, a compound that converts to Delta-9 when the product is heated.

Retailers like Estella Castro from Austin Cannabis Co. express concern over these regulations. Castro states that smokable products make up about 40% of her sales, and the new prohibitions could harm her business. Cannabis advocates agree, fearing that these regulations will push consumers towards unregulated markets that lack safety measures.

The industry now anticipates potential legal challenges as it seeks clarity on regulations that may threaten small businesses and product access.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What must be removed from Texas stores by the end of the month?

Option: Edible cannabis products



- Option: Smokable cannabis products
- Option: Cannabis seeds
- Option: THC oils

2. Who issued the executive order influencing the new regulations?

- Option: Lieutenant Governor
- Option: Governor Greg Abbott
- Option: State Health Commissioner
- Option: Texas Legislature

3. What percentage of Estella Castro's sales come from smokable products?

- Option: 20%
- Option: 30%
- Option: 40%
- Option: 50%

4. What is the new measure introduced for THC products?

- Option: Delta-9 THC
- Option: Total THC
- Option: THCA only
- Option: Percentage weight

5. When will the new regulations come into effect?

- Option: March 1
- Option: March 15
- Option: March 31
- Option: April 1

6. What could happen to some businesses due to the new regulations?

- Option: They may expand
- Option: They may close
- Option: They may hire more staff
- Option: They may reduce prices

### True-False

7. The new regulations will allow smokable hemp products to be sold after March 31.



8. The Texas Legislature reached a consensus on stricter regulations for THC products.
9. Retailers are thrilled about the reduced fees for compliance with the new regulations.
10. Consumers are likely to be impacted by the increased prices due to new regulations.
11. The new regulations come from recommendations made in January.
12. Hemp products with up to 0.3% Delta-9 THC are classified as legal in Texas.

### Gap-Fill

13. Smokable cannabis products must be removed from Texas stores by the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ .
14. The new regulations will take effect on March \_\_\_\_\_ .
15. The adopted rules will introduce a calculation for \_\_\_\_\_ THC.
16. Retailers like Estella Castro are concerned about the impact on their \_\_\_\_\_ .
17. The regulations were influenced by an executive order from \_\_\_\_\_ Abbott.
18. The new regulations could push consumers towards \_\_\_\_\_ markets.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Smokable cannabis products 2. Governor Greg Abbott 3. 40% 4. Total THC 5. March 31  
6. They may close

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. month 14. 31 15. total 16. business 17. Greg 18. unregulated

### CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL5

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