

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2532 (Irwin)

As Amended August 21, 2026

2/3 vote

SUMMARY

Requires edible cannabis products and cannabis beverages to include the toll-free telephone number for the national Poison Help line on their labels and inserts, requires the containers for cannabis beverages containing more than one serving to visibly display the amount of liquid remaining within the container and feature unobstructed and conspicuous lines delineating individual serving or portion sizes and to be sold with the offer of a free measuring instrument or measuring device that allows the consumer to measure a single serving for consumption.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Delay the labeling and measuring device requirements and advertising prohibitions for cannabis beverages containing more than one serving until July 1, 2027.
- 2) Add an additional requirement for the label of a multi-serving cannabis beverage to include the size of a single serving measured in fluid ounces to the nearest tenth of a fluid ounce.
- 3) Provide that a multi-serving cannabis beverage container is only required to feature unobstructed and conspicuous lines delineating individual serving or portion size if the container is transparent or otherwise visibly displays the amount of liquid remaining within the container, and exempts containers that are shaped in a manner that makes it impossible to feature accurate lines.
- 4) Specify that the cannabis retailer is responsible for offering the consumer a measuring device or instrument at the time of purchase, provided by the manufacturer on an as-needed basis, that is able to contain at least one fluid ounce and measures to the nearest tenth of a fluid ounce.

COMMENTS

Labeling Requirements for Cannabis Packaging. Language enacted as part of the original MCRSA legislation in 2015 set strict standards for cannabis packaging and labeling, including the inclusion of specific cautionary statements. Proposition 64 then recodified nearly identical language for its own mandated label content, with a handful of minor variations reconciled when SB 94 merged MCRSA and the AUMA into MAUCRSA. Under current law, all cannabis product labels must display the following statement in a clear and legible fashion, in bold print:

GOVERNMENT WARNING: THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS CANNABIS, A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND ANIMALS. CANNABIS PRODUCTS MAY ONLY BE POSSESSED OR CONSUMED BY PERSONS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER UNLESS THE PERSON IS A QUALIFIED PATIENT. THE INTOXICATING EFFECTS OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS MAY BE DELAYED UP TO TWO HOURS. CANNABIS USE WHILE PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING MAY BE HARMFUL. CONSUMPTION OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE AND OPERATE MACHINERY. PLEASE USE EXTREME CAUTION.

In addition to the above statement, MAUCRSA requires certain factual information about the product's ingredients and contents to be listed, as well as information associated with a unique identifier for purposes of identifying and tracking the cannabis goods. MAUCRSA also requires the DCC to set its own additional requirements for cannabis packaging and labeling.

Regulations promulgated by the DCC have set additional labeling standards. For example, all required labels must be "unobstructed and conspicuous" in at least 6 point type size, and must be written in English. Additional language is required for specific product types; for example, the primary panel of an edible cannabis product must include the phrase "cannabis infused" in bold type and a text size larger than the text size used for the identity of the product.

MAUCRSA explicitly prohibits cannabis and cannabis product packaging and labeling from being made to be attractive to children. The DCC's regulations specifically prohibit cannabis goods labeling from containing content that is, or designed to be, attractive to individuals under the age of 21 using the same criteria as provided for advertising restrictions. This includes a ban on labeling that uses depictions of minors, cartoons, candy packaging, or other images popularly used to advertise to children.

In August 2025, the California State Auditor (CSA) released an audit of the DCC's enforcement of laws prohibiting cannabis products from being advertised, marketed, or labeled in a manner that is attractive to children. The CSA report determined that "state law and DCC's regulations about design elements that are attractive to children are unspecific, leading to subjective and sometimes inconsistent determinations of whether cannabis product packaging is compliant." On February 17, 2026, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions held a joint hearing on the CSA report and received a presentation from the State Auditor's office, which included the discussion of recommendations made by the CSA in its report.

In addition to prohibitions against cannabis product packaging and labeling from being attractive to children, the DCC's regulations also prohibit the labeling on cannabis goods from containing statements that are potentially deceptive or false. Specifically, current regulations prohibit "any health-related statement that is untrue or misleading" and require the following:

Any health-related statement must be supported by the totality of publicly available scientific evidence (including evidence from well-designed studies conducted in a manner which is consistent with generally recognized scientific procedures and principles), and for which there is significant scientific agreement among experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate such claims.

In 2023, the California Cannabis Industry Association sponsored SB 540 (Laird), which required the DCC to regularly reevaluate its existing regulations to determine whether to establish new labeling requirements on packaging for cannabis goods. In addition to all the information currently required for cannabis labels, including the warning statement mandated under MAUCRSA, SB 540 required the DCC to consider adding additional warnings that are necessary to reflect evolving science regarding the risks that cannabis use may cause consumers. The first reevaluation were required to take place on or before July 1, 2025, and additional reevaluations are required every five years beginning January 1, 2030.

SB 540 additionally required the DCC to create an educational brochure, in consultation with the California Department of Public Health, aimed at further educating consumers about the health effects and risks of cannabis use. The brochure includes information about the pharmacological

effects of cannabis use, as well as information about the implications and risks associated with high potency cannabis products and the potential for THC to exacerbate certain mental health conditions. SB 540 specified that the review of the brochure be done in conjunction with the DCC's review of its labeling regulations. As of March 1, 2025, every cannabis retailer must prominently display the brochure at the point of sale or final delivery in person, and online at time of online purchase.

This bill would add to the information that must be included on labels and inserts by additionally requiring the toll-free telephone number for the national Poison Help line to be included for edible cannabis products and cannabis beverages. The CSA audit reported that since 2016, there has been a 469 percent increase in the total number of calls to the California Poison Control System related to cannabis ingestion among children age five and younger, from 148 calls in 2016 to 842 calls in 2023. The author believes that displaying the national Poison Help line on cannabis products will help ensure that this resource is readily available in the event of a potentially life-threatening cannabis poisoning.

Cannabis Beverages. Manufactured cannabis products are essentially finished goods containing cannabis that include ingredients or materials beyond the cannabis plant itself. This includes edible cannabis products. MAUCRSA specifically requires that edible cannabis products be all of the following:

- 1) Not designed to be appealing to children or easily confused with commercially sold candy or foods that do not contain cannabis.
- 2) Produced and sold with a standardized concentration of cannabinoids not to exceed 10 milligrams THC per serving.
- 3) Delineated or scored into standardized serving sizes if the cannabis product contains more than one serving and is an edible cannabis product in solid form.
- 4) Homogenized to ensure uniform disbursement of cannabinoids throughout the product.
- 5) Manufactured and sold under sanitation standards established by the DCC that are similar to the standards for preparation, storage, handling, and sale of food products.
- 6) Provided to customers with sufficient information to enable the informed consumption of the product, including the potential effects of the cannabis product and directions as to how to consume the cannabis product, as necessary.
- 7) Marked with a universal symbol, as determined by the DCC through regulation.

MAUCRSA defines “edible cannabis product” as a cannabis product that is intended to be used, in whole or in part, for human or animal consumption, including chewing gum. This definition was originally intended to capture both solid edibles (such as cookies or gummies) as well as liquid edibles (cannabis beverages). However, representatives of the cannabis beverage industry pointed out that many of the requirements and proposals for cannabis edibles generally do not necessarily make sense for liquid beverages, and suggested that cannabis beverages should be distinctly regulated from other edible manufactured products.

In 2022, the California Beverage Association sponsored AB 2155 (Villapudua), which distinctly defined “cannabis beverage” as a form of edible cannabis product that is intended to be consumed in its final state as a beverage. The bill did not exempt cannabis beverages from any existing requirements for manufactured cannabis products or edibles, nor did it create any new requirements for cannabis beverage manufacturers. However, by adding a specific definition for cannabis beverages, the intent was to provide an additional framework for future proposals to be enacted with more specificity toward the beverage industry.

The CSA report included a number of findings specific to cannabis beverages. While all edible cannabis products are prohibited from exceeding 10 milligrams THC per serving, the CSA report noted that cannabis beverages often contained a significant amount of THC per container:

Cannabis beverages contain multiple 10 mg servings of THC. For example, a four-ounce cannabis beverage packaged like an energy shot could have 100 mg THC even though the maximum single-serving dose is 10 mg THC. We observed cannabis beverage containers packaged in a way that provided no reasonable way to measure each serving. This packaging could be particularly dangerous for children because they may not stop consuming the beverage after drinking one-tenth of, for example, a 12-ounce can of cannabis-infused soda.

The CSA report pointed out that the high amount of total THC per cannabis beverage was especially problematic when ingested by children. The CSA noted that other jurisdictions have specific limits related to cannabis beverages. Five of the six beverages reviewed by the CSA were determined to contain a total of 100 milligrams THC—10 servings of 10 milligrams THC each—and the CSA reported that it “could not identify guidance on the packaging that would allow a consumer to easily measure a single serving size. For example, one product included marks on the exterior of the can noting 10 equal servings; however, the can was opaque, making it difficult to know how much the consumer had actually drunk.”

The CSA report recommended that the Legislature consider requiring easy understanding and measurement of serving sizes, such as through an included measuring device, in a manner similar to other states like Washington. The CSA further recommended that the Legislature consider establishing a cap on the amount of THC in one cannabis beverage container to 10 milligrams. This bill would effectuate the first recommendation, requiring the container of cannabis beverages containing more than one serving to feature unobstructed and conspicuous lines delineating individual serving or portion sizes. The bill would further require that consumers be offered, at the point of sale and at no charge, a measuring instrument or measuring device that allows the consumer to measure a single serving for consumption. This bill would additionally prohibit cannabis beverages containing more than one serving from being marketed or advertised as single-serve products.

According to the Author

“The recent audit completed by the State Auditor confirmed what many have long recognized: California’s cannabis industry continues to package and market products in ways which are overtly attractive to children. Since the passage of Proposition 64, child cannabis poisonings have increased dramatically. These exposures are often driven by cannabis product packaging that uses features which are explicitly attractive to children, leading children to consume the products unintentionally. Young children who accidentally consume cannabis require poison control treatment consistently, and in many cases they can also expose their fellow elementary and middle school peers to cannabis. AB 2532 follows up on a key issue the auditor raised by

enacting new labeling requirements on cannabis beverages, including new warning labels and requirements that help consumers measure out one dose of THC. The bill also requires cannabis packages to include the phone number for the national poison control center, ensuring that this critical resource is readily available in the event of a potentially life-threatening cannabis poisoning.”

Arguments in Support

The *California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* (CALACAP) supports this bill, writing: “Despite existing statutory protections intended to prevent cannabis products from appealing to children, cannabis poisonings among minors continue to rise at alarming rates. Since 2016, calls to the California Poison Control System related to cannabis ingestion among children five and younger have increased dramatically. Existing cannabis beverage regulations allow up to 100 mg of THC per package, but unlike other edible products, beverages are not separated into clearly identifiable servings, creating confusion and increasing the risk of accidental overconsumption. AB 2532 addresses these concerns by implementing stronger labeling standards that help consumers accurately identify one serving and by ensuring poison control resources are easily accessible in emergencies.”

Arguments in Opposition

There are no arguments in opposition of the most recently amended version of the bill.

FISCAL COMMENTS

Pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

VOTES:

ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS: 17-0-2

YES: Berman, Addis, Ahrens, Alanis, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Caloza, Chen, Elhawary, Hadwick, Haney, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Lowenthal, Nguyen, Pellerin

ABS, ABST OR NV: Johnson, Macedo

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0-9

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Gallagher, Lowenthal, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Solache, Soria, Wilson

UPDATED

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