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Illinois Releases 2026 Annual Cannabis Report Highlighting Continued Growth, Expanded Access and Regulatory Oversight

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) and the Cannabis Regulation Oversight Office (CROO) recently released the State of Illinois' **2026 Annual Cannabis Report**, providing a comprehensive look at the work of state agencies responsible for cannabis licensing, regulation, public health, public safety, economic development and reinvestment during Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

“Fiscal Year 2026 was an important year for Illinois’ cannabis program, and the changes we have been implementing from SB 3222 continue to strengthen the regulatory framework and build on the progress we have made since adult-use cannabis was first legalized,” said **IDFPR Secretary Mario Treto, Jr.** “We are focused on expanding access for patients and consumers, creating opportunities for businesses and ensuring that Illinois continues to have a cannabis industry that is safe, transparent, and responsibly regulated.”

The report reflects a year of significant changes for Illinois’ cannabis industry, including the passage of SB 3222, the Cannabis and Hemp Omnibus. Signed into law in June 2026, SB 3222 represents one of the most significant changes to Illinois’ cannabis framework since the passage of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act in 2019. Among its provisions, the law allows adult-use dispensaries across Illinois to opt in to serving medical cannabis patients, reduces certain barriers to entry and increases transparency around cannabis business ownership.

“The annual report is an opportunity to examine cannabis regulation as a whole and recognize that the collaborative statewide effort extends well beyond licensing,” said **Erin Johnson, Cannabis Regulation Oversight Officer**. “As our regulatory structure and industry both mature, we saw record number of sales last year, with the best prices yet for Illinois consumers.”

Among the report’s highlights:

- **SB 3222 modernizes Illinois’ cannabis framework.** The Cannabis and Hemp Omnibus allows all adult-use dispensaries to opt in to serve medical cannabis patients, removes certain barriers for individuals seeking to work at dispensaries, reduces regulatory burdens through right-touch regulation principles, and increases ownership transparency.

- **Consumer demand remained strong.** Adult-use cannabis sales continued to show significant consumer demand, with more than 5 million adult-use items sold in July 2026, the highest monthly total to date. August 2026 sales totaled nearly 4.9 million adult-use items, a 9 percent increase in items sold compared to August 2025.
- **The number of adult-use dispensaries continued to grow.** IDFPR issued 29 operational dispensary licenses during FY26, increasing the number of retail locations by more than 10 percent. IDFPR also expanded its Cannabis Control Section by adding eight investigators to support the growing number of dispensaries across the state.
- **Regulatory oversight increased alongside industry growth.** IDFPR conducted 755 dispensary inspections in FY26, up from 625 in FY25, while expanding its inspection staff from 11 to 16 inspectors. The Department reported no mandatory cannabis product recalls in FY26.
- **Medical cannabis access has expanded significantly.** Prior to SB 3222, medical cannabis patients were limited to a small number of designated medical dispensaries. SB 3222 increased patient options, added new qualifying medical conditions, reduced certification fees, and codified the ability for telehealth certification visits. IDFPR continues to process applications and issues licenses to eligible dispensaries as they complete the required review and approval process.

The 2026 Annual Cannabis Report also highlights the State's continued investment in research, public health and education. The report includes information from the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) on the Cannabis Research Institute and its work examining cannabis markets, safety literacy, workforce development, community-based education and the health effects of cannabis.

The Cannabis Health Advisory Committee also recently released its annual report examining the public health impacts of adult-use cannabis legalization. The report draws on multiple data sources to track health and behavioral trends and provides an evidence-based assessment of how legalization continues to evolve in Illinois.

The **2026 Annual Cannabis Report** compiles required annual reporting from IDFPR, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois State Police, the Adult Use Cannabis Health Advisory Committee, DCEO, and the Illinois Department of Public Health, along with supporting information from the Illinois Department of Revenue and DHS.

The full 2026 Annual Cannabis Report is available [here](#).

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