



The Extra Mile

Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms

Take Action Now: Department of Agriculture Rulemaking Hearing Rescheduled

Attend the hearing on June 18th or submit comments online

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture has [rescheduled their rulemaking hearing](#) for **June 18th** regarding a rule that would prevent food and beverage products that contain THC from being sold in Nebraska. This comes as a result of Governor Pillen's January executive order [aimed at cracking down on what he described as an "illegal recreational synthetic THC industry."](#)

Hearing Information

When: Thursday, June 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Department of Agriculture Office, hearing room 245
(245 Fallbrook Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68521)

Submit comments online by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17th** at agr.comments@nebraska.gov to be included in the hearing record.

According to the hearing notice, the regulation implements the Nebraska Pure Food Act by establishing standards for determining when food is adulterated with unsafe substances and when such food is misbranded. The proposed regulations provide that food products are adulterated and misbranded if they contain, or are labeled to contain, Tetrahydrocannabinols, Psilocybin (psilocin) or other controlled substances. Marketed and sold as gummies, drops, and a variety of drinks, these synthetic THC products are chemically altered to produce psychoactive qualities similar to Delta-9 THC. [Click here to view the proposed rule.](#)

[Researchers have found](#) that the prevalence of polysubstance impaired driving **increased** from 14.9% in 2018 to 18.8% in 2022 (nearly 1 in 5). Cannabis was the most frequently detected nonalcohol drug (25.0%), followed by stimulants (19.2%), and narcotics (8.3%). Nebraska is already one of the worst alcohol-impaired driving states in the country – we had 955 episodes per 1,000 people in 2012 according to self-reported behavior, which is nearly one episode of drunk driving per citizen and double the national average.

Impaired driving and drug-fueled crime will only increase if this rule is not adopted. [A recent study](#) also found that effects of alcohol and THC may work together in a "synergistic" way, making drivers **more impaired** than expected and there is currently no effective way to determine THC impairment.

Federal regulations currently prohibit THC in alcoholic products unless the THC has been derived from hemp. However, a new more restrictive ban will take effect in November 2026. The ban will alter the legal status of many hemp products currently available on the market, specifically that a container for hemp-derived products intended for human consumption will be allowed to have no more than 0.4 milligrams of total THC, this

includes alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages. In Nebraska, we've seen several attempts to deregulate non-alcoholic products, but due to concerns raised by the public health community, these have not been adopted. It is also important to highlight that the [US Food & Drug Administration has not approved THC](#) for use as an ingredient in food or beverages, considering it an "unapproved food additive."

Finally, the proposed rule protects kids from getting their curious hands on these substances by ensuring that the definition of food includes gummies/edibles and chewing gum.

Friends, weighing in with a few sentences in support of these proposed regulations will go a long way to show that we care that our kids are protected from products that target them and our communities need safer roads.

Please Join Us at the 2026 Impaired Driving Summit

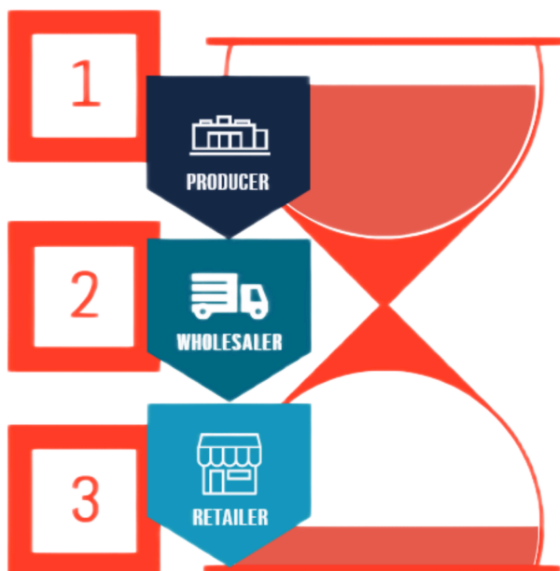
Registration closes July 5th

The 2026 Impaired Driving Summit will take place on **Thursday, July 30, 2026**, at the Holthus Convention Center in York, Nebraska. Sponsored by AAA Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Transportation – Highway Safety Office, the summit will bring together professionals from law enforcement, prosecution, treatment and rehabilitation services, education, and traffic safety organizations to address current impaired driving challenges and prevention strategies.



The event will feature presentations and discussions led by national traffic safety experts, prosecutors, rehabilitation specialists, victim advocates, and higher education prevention professionals. Attendees will gain insight into emerging trends, research updates, real-world case studies, and collaborative approaches to reducing impaired driving and improving public safety. Registration is open through **July 5, 2026**. Organizers encourage professionals and community partners involved in traffic safety, prevention, education, and outreach to attend and share the invitation with colleagues. [Click here to register.](#)

Will the Supreme Court Uphold the Three-Tier Regulatory System?



A new legal fight over alcohol shipping laws could soon reach the Supreme Court of the United States. [Two cases from Arizona and Indiana](#) challenged the dormant commerce clause which says that states generally cannot pass laws that unfairly restrict interstate commerce by creating in-state incentives that disadvantage out of state producers.

The alcohol industry has challenged whether states can require alcohol producers to have a physical location inside the state before shipping alcohol directly to customers. Supporters of the laws say these rules help states regulate alcohol sales, protect public health, and maintain the traditional three-tier alcohol regulatory system of producers,

wholesalers, and retailers. Lower federal courts have mostly sided with states in similar cases across the country.

States have long had the authority to regulate alcohol sales under the 21st Amendment, including setting rules on who can sell and deliver alcohol. Keeping strong state oversight can help limit underage access and reduce illegal sales. Maintaining careful control over alcohol availability also helps reduce alcohol-related harms such as impaired driving, violence, and other crime. The U.S. Supreme Court must now decide if it will take up these cases or allow the previous court decisions to stand.

Research Brief: Alcohol and Cannabis Edibles

[A new study](#) found that combining cannabis edibles with alcohol can cause greater and longer-lasting driving impairment than using either substance alone — even when alcohol levels are below the legal limit. Researchers tested 25 adults using simulated driving tasks and found the combination significantly worsened reaction time, lane control, and overall driving performance. The study also showed that standard roadside sobriety tests often failed to detect impairment from cannabis edibles, raising concerns about current enforcement methods. Scientists say the effects of alcohol and THC may work together in a “synergistic” way, making drivers more impaired than expected. Stronger laws are needed to keep these substances separate in products (like the proposed rule above) and evidence-based policies that limit the availability and increase the cost of these products, all while increasing enforcement to keep our roads safe.



Research Brief: Late Night Alcohol Sales and Ambulance Calls



A [study conducted in Scotland](#) found that extending late-night alcohol sales hours in bars and clubs was linked to increases in alcohol-related harms, especially in Aberdeen. After 38 bars in Aberdeen were allowed to stay open up to 3 a.m., researchers observed an 11.4% increase in alcohol-related ambulance calls and an 8.5% rise in reported weekend nighttime crimes. In Glasgow, where only ten nightclubs received a one-hour extension, the

increases were not statistically significant, suggesting the size and type of venues may influence outcomes. Researchers say the findings provide important evidence for policymakers considering changes to alcohol licensing and late-night trading regulations.



Enjoy your summer

**NO COALITION MEETINGS
JUNE AND JULY
2026**

JOIN US AGAIN
AUGUST 12, 2026
AS WE RESUME OUR
MONTHLY MEETINGS

2026
Meeting Dates

January 21st

February 11th

March 11th

April 8th

May 13th

*No Meetings in
June or July*

August 12th

September 9th

October 14th

November 18th

December 9th



Meetings are held at
UNO's Community Engagement Center
6400 University Drive South



Project Extra Mile | 6001 Dodge Street CEC 228 | Omaha, NE 68182-0600 US

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