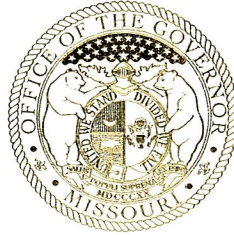


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Michael L. Parson

GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

August 22, 2024

Jay Ashcroft
Secretary of State
James C. Kirkpatrick
State Information Center
600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Secretary Ashcroft:

I am extremely disappointed to learn that you denied the emergency rulemaking submitted by the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC) within the Department of Public Safety to prevent access to unregulated psychoactive cannabis products at liquor-licensed facilities. This rulemaking is necessary to protect the health and safety of Missourians, especially children.

By denying this emergency rulemaking, ATC may only submit a proposed rulemaking, delaying implementation by at least six months. As best I can tell, you denied this emergency rulemaking because you believe hurt feelings are more important than protecting children. This is a personal matter for thousands of parents and grandparents across the state, and denying the rulemaking is your attempt at retribution for my endorsement of another candidate. Safety of kids is not a political issue. I am disgusted that you are making it one.

You have not provided any other reason why you do not believe this rule follows the statutory requirements for publication beyond simply stating it does not. There is no principled reason why this emergency rulemaking cannot proceed. Indeed, there has been a 600% increase in emergency room visits for children under age five suffering from cannabis poisoning since 2018. These products could come from the Southern Border or adversarial countries like China, and there is no way of knowing what is in them. If you truly believe the statutory requirements for an emergency rulemaking are not met, I fear how many children must consume these harmful products before you think an emergency exists.

Our children are a priority for me. I hope you feel the same. I have directed ATC to resubmit the emergency rulemaking, and I hope you reconsider your actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael L. Parson".

Michael L. Parson
Governor