

ORDINANCE

SUBJECT: Hemp-derived cannabinoid and synthetic cannabinoid products

COMMITTEE: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

FIRST CONSIDERATION: November 10, 2025

FINAL CONSIDERATION: December 18, 2025

ORDINANCE # 220 - 12/25 **PUBLICATION DATE** December 27, 2025

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE s. 11.32, ENTITLED "HEMP-DERIVED CANNABINOID AND SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID PRODUCTS" OF CHAPTER 11, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

ANALYSIS

This new ordinance (1) will prohibit the use or possession of any hemp-derived or synthetic cannabinoid to any person under the age of 21, (2) will prohibit the sale, distribution, or delivery to any person under the age of 21, (3) will require age verification with a valid photo ID at all retailers and vending machines, (4) will restrict the sale of hemp-derived or synthetic cannabinoids within 1000 feet of a youth-serving organization – exception for businesses with current sale of these products.

INFORMATION:

County Board Rules: Governing Body s. 2.11 states, in part: Ordinances are drafted by the Corporation Counsel. After the ordinance has been reviewed by a standing committee, each Supervisor will be given a copy of the ordinance showing the deleted language (grayed) and the new language (underlined) and an analysis of the intent of the ordinance. After introduction to the County Board, the ordinance shall be referred to the next monthly meeting unless waived by a 2/3 vote of the Supervisors present and a public hearing may be held if requested by a Supervisor. An amendment may be introduced and debated at either the original or the referred meeting. Copies of the ordinances of the County of La Crosse in their entirety are available with Corporation Counsel, County Clerk, or at www.lacrossecounty.org .

ORDINANCE #220

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The County Board of Supervisors of the County of La Crosse does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 11.32, entitled "Hemp-Derived Cannabinoid and Synthetic Cannabinoid Products" is created to read:

11.32 HEMP-DERIVED CANNABINOID AND SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID PRODUCTS

(1) DEFINITIONS

- (a) In this ordinance, hemp-derived cannabinoid constitutes one of the many intoxicating compounds found in the Cannabis plant, or any current or future synthetic version thereof. Hemp-derived cannabinoid products include, but are not limited to:
 1. Any hemp-derived product containing delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in a concentration of 0.3 percent or less; or,
 2. Any cannabinoid other than delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), synthetic cannabinoids or an isomer derived from such cannabinoid (including but not limited to: delta-8 THC, delta-10 THC, hexahydrocannabinol (HHC), HHC-O, THCA, THC-O, THCP, THCV).
- (b) Hemp-derived cannabinoids does not include non-intoxicating cannabinoids, including cannabidiol (CBD), which is an active ingredient in cannabis, but does not possess psychoactive properties that produce an intoxicating effect as defined in Wis. Stat. 961.01(3r), and does not contain other isomers as listed above.
- (c) Synthetic Cannabinoid Products include those substances listed in Sec. 961.14(4)(tb), Wis. Stats. and as may be amended from time to time and any other substance which is a cannabinoid receptor agonist ("cannabinoid receptor agonist" means a substance that has an affinity for and stimulates physiological activity in a cannabinoid receptor within the human brain) or any other similar structural analogs.

(2) USE AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED. No person under the age of twenty-one (21) shall use or possess any amount of any synthetic cannabinoid product or hemp-derived cannabinoid, including delta-8 THC, delta-10 THC, HHC, HHC-O, THCA, THC-O, THCP, or THCV except as specifically allowed by Wisconsin law.

(3) SALE TO PERSONS UNDER 21 PROHIBITED. No person shall sell, distribute, deliver, or provide any synthetic cannabinoid product or hemp-derived cannabinoid product containing delta-8 THC, delta-10 THC, HHC, HHC-O, THCA, THC-O, THCP, or THCV to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) years, except as specifically allowed by Wisconsin law.

(4) SALES TO REQUIRE AGE VERIFICATION. No person shall sell, distribute, deliver, or provide any synthetic cannabinoid product or hemp-derived cannabinoid product containing delta-8 THC, delta-10 THC, HHC, HHC-O, THCA, THC-O, THCP, or THCV to a person without having first verified their age by having the person present a valid photo identification.

(5) RESTRICTION ON LOCATION OF SALES FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF AT-RISK POPULATIONS. Synthetic cannabinoid products and hemp-derived cannabinoids shall not be sold within 1000 feet of a hospital, church, or youth-serving organization such as, but not limited to: childcare centers, pre-schools, public or parochial schools, tribal schools, playgrounds, parks, sporting facilities, dance studios, or any organization primarily intended to serve children. The distance shall be measured by the shortest route along a designated roadway or walking path from the main entrance of the youth-serving organization to the premises selling hemp-derived cannabinoid products. The prohibition in this section does not apply to businesses selling hemp-derived cannabinoids from a location used for said sales on or before January 1, 2026 or any business selling hemp-derived cannabinoid products prior to the opening of the youth-serving organization.

(6) VENDING MACHINES.

- (a) A retailer or vending machine operator may not sell hemp-derived cannabinoid products or synthetic cannabinoid products in a vending machine unless the vending machine is located in a place where the retailer or vending machine operator ensures that no person younger than twenty-one (21) years of age is present or permitted to enter unless accompanied by his or her parent or guardian.
- (b) A retailer or vending machine operator may not sell hemp-derived cannabinoid products or synthetic products from a vending machine unless the vending machine is able to first verify that the purchaser is twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

(7) SIGNS AND NOTICES.

- (a) A retailer must post a sign in areas within their premises where any synthetic cannabinoid product or hemp-derived cannabinoid is sold to consumers stating that the sale of any such to any person under the age of twenty-one (21) is unlawful under this section.
- (b) A vending machine operator must attach a notice in a conspicuous place on the front of their vending machines stating that the purchase of any synthetic cannabinoid product or hemp-derived cannabinoid by any person under the age of twenty-one (21) is prohibited.

(8) EXCEPTION. Acts otherwise prohibited under this section shall not be unlawful if done by or under the direction or prescription of a licensed physician, dentist, or other medical health professional authorized to direct or prescribe such acts.

(9) PENALTY. Any individual who violates any provision of this ordinance by purchasing products shall, upon conviction, be subject to a forfeiture of \$1, exclusive of costs. Any business or seller who violates any provision of this ordinance by selling products shall, upon conviction, be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$100, nor more than \$500, exclusive of costs.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

LA CROSSE COUNTY

By: 

Tina Tryggestad, County Board Chair

By: 

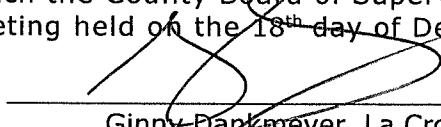
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk

PASSED: December 18, 2025

PUBLISHED: December 27, 2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original ordinance required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 18th day of December 2025.


Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk