



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2244
Presented to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
By Robert Jacobs, Executive Officer
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Chairman Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2244. The KBI supports this bill and would like to thank the Department of Agriculture, the Kansas Sheriff's Association, and the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office in their cooperative work to bring this bill forward. We support both the Department of Agriculture and the State Fire Marshal's Office in their effort to provide regulation, oversight and enforcement of hemp producers and processors.

The KBI is concerned about the cultivation or diversion of any hemp or hemp byproducts that contain Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) above the legal limit. Hemp containing THC above the legal limit, which constitutes marijuana, would potentially pose a danger to public safety.

The diversion of hemp byproducts containing high levels of THC, while being transported on Kansas highways during the conversion process, is concerning. As such, the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office has promulgated rules and regulations to include required: criminal history checks, physical and electronic security, digital photographs and chain of custody documentation to address these concerns. These measures will help to ensure the security and safe handling of hemp byproducts during all stages of the extraction process.

Additionally, current federal law will not allow the KBI to conduct national criminal history records searches through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on individuals involved in the processing of commercial industrial hemp. Conducting searches of Kansas hemp processors through the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) is prohibited due to the absence of language authorizing such searches within state statute.

HB 2244 would address this requirement and allow the KBI to search and report national criminal history information to the State Fire Marshal's Office. Specifically, Section 4 of HB 2244 would require employees of hemp processors to submit fingerprints for national and state background checks. These important criminal history checks will help to mitigate the likelihood of bad actors exploiting the commercial industrial hemp program.

The provisions of HB 2244 help to guarantee the safe production and processing of hemp in Kansas. The KBI encourages the committee to recommend the passage of HB 2244. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.