

ANHEUSER-BUSCH



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Testimony of Ted Powers
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
In Support of HB 2672

March 5, 2020

Chairman Barker and members of the Committee:

My name is Ted Powers and I am pleased to submit testimony on behalf of Anheuser-Busch in support of HB 2672. This bill would allow liquor by the drink establishments to sell beer that has a lower alcohol content without having to obtain a separate CMB license.

This Committee and this legislature should be commended for steps that have been taken to modernize Kansas liquor laws in the past few years. That is particularly true of the difficult compromises and decisions that led to changes in retail availability of full-strength beer several years ago. Because of the sweeping nature of the changes enacted, over the past few years you have revisited some issues and made some tweaks to the law that needed clean-up. HB 2672 is in that category.

Prior to the changes on retail availability of full-strength beer, lower alcohol beers were almost always the 3.2% versions of the same brand also brewed at "regular" strength. While those special versions of regular brands have now been discontinued, consumer demands and health trends are changing toward beers that are specifically brewed to be below the 3.2% threshold. As a result, clubs and drinking establishments have run up against current Kansas law that will not let them carry these lower alcohol products without purchasing an otherwise unnecessary CMB license. HB 2672 would rectify that problem, and so we ask for your support of the bill.

We would also encourage your amending this bill to make it effective on publication so that lower alcohol products can be readily available in drinking establishments without unnecessary licensing as soon as practical. Thank you for your consideration.

Ted Powers
Director, State Government Affairs
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