

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA
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STEPHEN OWENS
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Chairman Tom Kessler
House Federal and State Committee
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612

March 11, 2025

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 137 – Authorizing the sale or transfer of forfeited firearms under the Kansas standard asset seizure and forfeiture act to a licensed firearm dealer.

Chairman Kessler & Members of the Committee:

Example of current law:

Current law: 22-2512(6)(A)(I) *Forfeited to the law enforcement agency seizing the weapon for use within such agency, for sale to a properly licensed federal firearms dealer, for trading to a properly licensed federal firearms dealer for other new or used firearms or accessories for use within such agency or for trading to another law enforcement agency for that agency's use;*

Unfortunately, we updated the civil asset forfeiture code, we failed to align the civil asset forfeiture of firearms to follow the process already allowed elsewhere in law.

Changes to Civil Asset Forfeiture Code: 60-4117(5)(B): *When firearms are forfeited under this act, the firearms, in the discretion of the seizing agency, shall be destroyed, used within the seizing agency for official purposes, traded to another law enforcement agency for use within such agency, **sold or transferred to a properly licensed federal firearms dealer** or given to the Kansas bureau of investigation for law enforcement, testing, comparison or destruction by the Kansas bureau of investigation forensic laboratory.*

I would ask for your support as we make these statutes consistent.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen Owens