

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF BEVERAGE RETAILERS



Testimony presented to House Judiciary Committee
March 5, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony supporting HB 2333.

The Kansas Association of Beverage Retailers represents the independent Kansas businesses licensed by the State of Kansas for the off-premise sale of strong beer, wine and spirits. Strong beer, wine and spirits are classified by Kansas statute as "alcoholic liquor".

HB 2333 provides an additional tool for discouraging underage individuals from attempting to buy alcoholic liquor illegally. The bill focuses on those who are 18 years of age and use a fraudulent I.D.

The manufacture and use of fraudulent I.D.s is considered a serious offense since our nation has focused on homeland security. However, a contradicting culture exists. In some communities, the local prosecutor may or may not wish to bring charges against an underage individual for illegal purchases or for using a fake I.D. Parents may or may not discourage their children from drinking while underage. Young people are acutely aware of whether or not their peers have suffered penalties for purchasing alcohol.

A liquor license is a privilege, and our members know that it is a responsibility of the license to enforce Kansas laws and to prevent underage access to alcohol to the best of our abilities. Unfortunately, the degree to which some individuals are willing to go has become daunting. The I.D.s have become very good and difficult to detect. In Lawrence, Kansas liquor stores have been key to detecting new trends for fake I.D.s and sharing that information with law enforcement – even calling attention to newly manufactured fake I.D.s that included holograms and appeared to have security strips on the back.

This statute will not reduce the responsibility of liquor store owners to detect and prevent underage sales. It will not erase penalties against the licensee, which can add up to revocation of the liquor license. In fact, we do not expect to see the statute used on a frequent basis. Most owners will never use the option, but will post the statute in their stores as a deterrent. The statute will serve as a deterrent, to cause individuals to think twice about violating the law.

KABR supports HB 2333 as an additional tool for discouraging young people from committing illegal acts.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Please feel free to contact us or visit with our members.

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