



# Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2244  
Presented to the House Committee on Agriculture  
By Robert Jacobs, Executive Officer  
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Chairman Rahjes 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 and/or diversion of non-compliant hemp. Non-compliant hemp is that which contains THC above the legal limit, which constitutes marijuana and would potentially pose a danger to public safety. To help alleviate this concern, Section 4 of HB 2244 would require employees of hemp processors to submit fingerprints for national and state background checks. National and state fingerprint background checks will help to mitigate the likelihood of bad actors exploiting the industrial hemp program.

Currently, federal law will not allow the KBI to search national criminal history records for applicants related to the industrial hemp program due to the absence of language authorizing such searches within state statute. Section 4 of HB 2244 would address this requirement and allow the KBI to conduct national criminal history searches through the Federal Bureau of Investigation and provide the results of such searches to the State Fire Marshal's Office. HB 2244 would create additional expenditures for processing fingerprints, however, the additional KBI expenditures would be offset by the required fees.

The diversion of hemp byproduct containing high levels of THC while being transported on Kansas highways throughout the conversion process is concerning. 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. These measures will help to ensure the security and safe handling of hemp byproducts during all stages of the extraction process.

House Bill 2244 will 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.

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