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63RD DISTRICT

Testimony on HB 2057

2/15/2021

Good Afternoon Chairman Tarwater, Vice Chair Long, and Ranking Democrat Clayton and members of the Commerce, Labor, and Economic Committee. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2057. This is a somewhat long-standing issue that has percolated here in the Statehouse for several years. I am optimistic that with your consideration we can push this bill to completion and check it off our list. Last session this bill was passed out of the Fed and State Committee and also the House floor, yet died due to our abrupt COVID-19 exit. And so in the new biennium I have reintroduced it again.

This issue predates me and was first introduced in the '15 legislature by my then predecessor Representative Jerry Henry, District 63 in NEKs. In the past this bill required language to be in compliance with the 3-tier ABC statutes and provide proper guidelines for the location of the manufacturer to the licensee of the bar or drinking establishment. What this bill is asking is to allow a holder of a license in the manufacture of distilled spirits or other licensee of the Ks liquor control act, to be able to be issued one drinking establishment license. I would refer you to page 2 lines 9-11 of the bill. In layman's terms, this bill allows that legal manufacturers of liquor in Kansas to be able to hold 1 drinking establishment license with the stipulation that their point of manufacture is within 2 miles of the drinking establishment. That language is outlined on page 4 lines 31-33. This language was created last year at the request of the Director of ABC and the various stakeholders.

In Atchison, I am pleased to have 2 major distillers of alcohol beverages in the county. This is unique in our state. This has been an ongoing request for promotional and tourism opportunities in Atchison, as I believe you will hear from other proponents here today.

Thank you again Mr. Chair and I do appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today in support of this important opportunity in HB2057 for my district. I will look forward to more proponent testimony today.

Representative John Eplee