

Written Testimony on HB 2184

House Committee of Federal and State Affairs

By

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Chairman Barker and members of the committee, I am Kay Haug, State Registrar for Vital Statistics and Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony for House Bill 2184.

HB 2184 authorizes the creation of the Kansas Medical Marijuana Regulation Act, providing for the establishment of the program dispensing cannabis preparations to registered patients who have qualified medical conditions as diagnosed by a licensed physician. This is a multi-agency program involving KDHE, KDOR, KDA and the Board of Healing Arts. The program functions include establishing patient applications, issuing identification cards to qualified applicants and caregivers, providing health care provider guidelines, and creating processes for growers, processors and dispensaries.

KDHE is instructed to establish a process to certify eligibility for an applicant to receive medical marijuana products based on information from a healthcare provider and issue identification cards for individuals with qualified medical needs and for caregivers. This registration status will authorize the patient to receive and possess the appropriate cannabis product. KDHE is also expected to facilitate the Kansas Medical Marijuana advisory committee. KDHE would implement and maintain a secure, real-time information system to house data and exchange information statewide, on a 24/7/365 basis with the 4-program agencies and law enforcement. In addition, we would develop a de-identified reporting system.

To support the Kansas Medical Marijuana Regulation Act, KDHE would establish a new agency bureau. Onboarding of a director and corresponding staff along with development of an IT system solution will be amongst the first tasks required. Identifying system specifications, submitting a request for purchase, conducting thorough testing of this new system and ensuring integration with partner agencies and law enforcement are amongst our duties. Regulations will also need written. The bill states on or before July 1, 2022 rules and regulations to administer the program and implement the program will be in place. This timeline does not provide ample time for KDHE to complete our tasks. A "go live" date of July 1, 2023 is recommended.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these written comments.