



Kansas Sheriffs' Association

PO Box 1122, Pittsburg, KS 66762

Phone: (620) 687-1206 ★ Fax: (620) 230-0866

Sheriff Sandy Horton, Ret., Executive Director

www.kansassheriffs.org

Testimony to House Committee on Judiciary Supporting Testimony on HB 2253

February 12, 2025

Chair Humphries and Committee Members,

In HB 2253, page 2, line 17, is requesting an addition to the current statute. The change is as follows: ((9) property that is livestock or an implement of husbandry is a severity level 5, nonperson felony.) The other language changes to the statute deals with the implementation of husbandry into statute.

Husbandry is defined as the care, cultivation, and breeding of crops or animals. Thus, the additional language of implanting husbandry into the statute. Rural county sheriff's have seen an increase in livestock theft and the theft of items to assist with breeding, husbandry. Livestock and husbandry items can be very expensive depending on the breed.

Currently on the sentencing level grid, a severity level 5 non-person felony conviction sentencing guidelines calls for 31 to 136 months or 2.5 to 10.5 years. According to the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines a level 5 non-person felony conviction would be presumptive imprisonment unless they have no prior felonies and the second offense would always be presumptive imprisonment.

Due to the complexity of breeding and some livestock being very expensive for livestock farmers we support the shift to a level 5 non-person felony if convicted of livestock or husbandry theft.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sheriff Jeff Easter
KSA Legislative Chair