

Alcoholic Beverage Control
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2026

TO: Senator Mike Thompson, Chairman, Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

FROM: Debbi Beavers, Director, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division. Email: debbi.beavers@ks.gov; Desk Phone 785-368-6290; Cell 785-260-1008.

SUBJECT: Neutral Oral Testimony SB 261

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The ABC is neutral on the bill but does have a concern.

The bill would authorize ABC to issue a retailer's, drinking establishment or caterer's license to a convicted felon provided:

- The offense was not a violent felony as defined;
- 10 years or more have lapsed since the completion of sentencing requirements for the conviction; and,
- The Director determines that the applicant has demonstrated that such person has been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant public trust.

The bill does not define "sufficiently rehabilitated" which could cause confusion and inconsistency with interpretation. The ABC would request the legislature establish those standards in statute.

By restricting the proposed exception for certain license types, this could lead to confusion for applicants.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.