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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson Thompson
Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 4, 2026

Subject: SB 261 – Authorizing the issuance of certain licenses to sell alcoholic beverages to convicted felons.

Senate Bill No. 261 (SB 261) would amend two statutes governing who may be issued a license to sell alcoholic beverages. Currently, convicted felons are prohibited from obtaining such licenses. SB 261 would allow the issuance of certain licenses to convicted felons under certain conditions.

First, the bill amends K.S.A. 41-311 to add new subsection (h). Under the new provision a retailer's license may be issued to a convicted felon under the following conditions:

- The conviction was for a nonviolent felony.
- Ten years or more have elapsed since the applicant satisfied the sentence imposed or was released from diversion, probation, or parole.
- The Director determines that the applicant is sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust.

Violent felonies are those defined in K.S.A. 21-6804(z) or 22-3717. These are serious person felonies such as murder, assault, rape, and sexually violent crimes against children.

Second, SB 261 amends K.S.A. 41-2623 to apply the same convicted felon exception to the issuance of drinking establishment licenses and caterer's licenses.

All other licenses issued under the Kansas Liquor Control Act and the Club and Drinking Establishment Act would be subject to the strict prohibition on the issuance of such licenses to convicted felons.

If enacted, SB 261 would become effective on July 1, 2026.