

Written Testimony on Senate Bill 113
Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

March 14, 2019

Chairman Suellentrop and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral, written testimony for Senate Bill 113 related to provisions of the Veteran's First Medical Cannabis Act.

This is a multi-agency program involving KDHE, KDOR, Boards of Pharmacy, Healing Arts, Nursing, KBI and KDA. Functions include establishing growing processes, dispensaries, patient applications and certification, health care provider registrations, changes to law enforcement rules and taxation.

Under this bill KDHE is instructed, to establish a process to certify eligibility for an applicant to receive cannabis products based on information from a healthcare provider and issue identification cards for individuals with qualified medical needs so they can receive and possess the appropriate cannabis product.

KDHE seeks to reduce the burden of application and certification for eligible individuals and health care providers. Therefore, we propose to use the Vital Statistics Integrated Information System (VSIIS) for this program. Health care providers currently use this system for certifying vital records for the State and using VSIIS will minimize the burden for certification requirements for patients. KDHE can work with KDOR to develop the process for card issuance to assure security processes are in place and to allow identification cards to be produced much like the drivers' licenses. Confidentiality of the process is critical and the VSIIS has numerous features to protect and securely route information.

Specific tasks involve:

- establishing an application process for individuals to receive identification cards in order to legally possess cannabis products for qualified medical conditions. The card is valid for 2 years. Priority will be given to veterans for the first 60 days of the program.
- Develop criteria for approval to issue identification cards based on information provided by a “health care provider with a valid provider-patient relationship “with the applicant. This is anticipated to involve submission of documentation from health care providers justifying the applicant’s need and eligibility for the cannabis product.
- Support a de-identified reporting process
- Collecting fees for applications to the program.
- Developing secure, real time information systems processes to exchange information with the 4 program agencies required to provide services for this program.

The Fiscal Note reflects anticipated needs to implement this program

Thank you for this opportunity to share information about how KDHE would implement the provisions of Senate Bill 113.