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House Federal and State Affairs

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Senate Bill 274: Extended temporary permit for special events

Chairman Brunk and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Senate Bill 274 is presented as a minor amendment to the Special Events legislation approved by the Kansas Legislature in 2009. The product of that legislation has been used numerous times in Wichita and elsewhere in Kansas, providing a responsible environment for Kansas citizens to consume alcoholic beverages on public streets and sidewalks within a defined special event district.

The current statute allows for an individual to apply for as many as four three-day permits in the course of single year. At the time of its enactment in 2009, the special circumstance of the 10-day Wichita River Festival was not fully recognized. Although the Festival could avail itself of all four three-day permits to accommodate the 10-day event, it (or the designated promoter) would have no further opportunity during that year to conduct additional events.

Several other special events take place each year in Wichita, including the annual Arts Festival and various one-time events such as the recent 20th anniversary celebration of Old Town. Passage of SB274 would allow the Festival promoter to participate in one or more of those shorter events, as well.

Thank you for past support and for your consideration of SB274.

House Federal & State Affairs

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Attachment # 31