PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

SENATE LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITEE

INTOXICATING HEMP PRODUCTS

JUNE 24, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Laughlin, Chairman Fontana, and members of the Senate Law and Justice Committee. The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) appreciates the opportunity to offer remarks on the sale of intoxicating hemp products.

The PSP Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) is composed of six regional laboratories and one DNA laboratory. The laboratories are strategically located across the state and all BFS laboratories are accredited by the American National Standards Institute National Accreditation Board, adhering to stringent standards to retain their accreditation. The laboratories serve all PSP stations, District Liquor Enforcement and Gaming offices, approximately 900 municipal police departments, and as requested, federal agencies.

Laboratory testing encompasses 10 forensic disciplines including Drug Chemistry. Among the over 200 personnel who work within the BFS, there are 45 civilian forensic scientists who specialize in drug analysis. These forensic scientists, at a minimum, must have a bachelor's degree in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, or forensic science with at least 16 college credits of chemistry.

The type of analysis conducted on drug evidence includes the identification of controlled drug substances including cannabis vegetable matter and cannabis products. Cannabis vegetable matter can be differentiated between marijuana and hemp based on delta 9 THC concentration levels. Cannabis products can be analyzed for specific cannabinoid composition. A wide array of

cannabinoid and cannabinoid-like compounds can be found in cannabis products, even those labeled as hemp derived.

The wide array of compounds includes THC isomers, other cannabinoids, and synthetic cannabinoid-like compounds, many of them psychoactive. In addition to delta 9 THC, other commonly found THC isomers include delta 8 THC and delta 10 THC. Other commonly found cannabinoids include CBD (cannabidiol) and CBG (cannabigerol). Examples of synthetic cannabinoid-like compounds include HHC (hexahydrocannabinol) and acetylated THC compounds. These examples are just a small sample of the many compounds found in cannabis vegetable matter and cannabis products, including hemp products.

The synthetic cannabinoid-like compounds are usually synthesized from CBD, the primary naturally occurring non-psychoactive cannabinoid found in hemp. These psychoactive synthetic cannabinoid-like compounds are then added back into hemp products. But even naturally occurring psychoactive cannabinoids such as delta 8 THC and THCP (Tetrahydrocannabiphorol) can be easily synthesized from CBD and added back into hemp products at much higher concentration levels than would be naturally occurring. While producers of such products may financially benefit from selling products containing intoxicating THC products while claiming they were derived from legally grown hemp, this puts consumers at risk of intoxication and consuming unsafe and unregulated byproducts of such chemical processes.

The BFS laboratories can detect, identify, and report these many compounds. The laboratories can also determine the delta 9 THC concentration level relative to the legal definition of hemp, 0.3% Total THC by weight. The Pennsylvania Drug Act currently controls all tetrahydrocannabinols, regardless of whether they are hemp derived or marijuana derived. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with PSP's experience and perspective on this important issue. I am happy to take any questions you may have.