

Submitter: Josh Eastman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB954

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and fellow committee members,

I figured I would supplement the testimony at the hearing briefly in writing. I only wanted to speak in support of two changes outlined in SB 954.

First, Judges authorizing search warrants across county lines. This fix will allow law enforcement to more efficiently investigate and dismantle drug trafficking organizations that are complex and are not subject to the "county line." In my experience as a DDA and now DA, many criminal enterprises (especially related to cannabis/controlled substances), conduct operations in multiple locations, towns, and counties, which currently poses logistical issues for investigators and prosecutors who are "doubling up" on search warrant affidavits, judicial time, etc. This bill addresses that, but, with the "interrelated" requirement to do so, should limit any concern of judge/forum shopping.

Second, outside of the cannabis cultivation operation context, I have not seen this section discussed much. However, because of the water, labor, environmental, health, etc. harms that are present at many/most of the cannabis cultivation operations, this list is necessary to adequately address the spectrum of societal harms occurring on these scenes and to the execution of search warrants more broadly. While the current term "reasonably necessary for the successful execution" covers most of the list (in theory), it is open for interpretation and litigation, where as the proposed amendment (that is non-exhaustive) explicitly allows for, who in my experience, is most likely to be necessary to execute the warrant safely.

Thank you,
Josh Eastman