

**House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee  
House Bill 2027  
January 20, 2021**

**Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Proponent**

Dear Chairman Jennings and Members of the Committee:

KACDL supports HB 2027, which would amend the penalties for tampering with electronic monitoring equipment from a severity level 6 felony to either a severity level 8 felony or a class A misdemeanor, depending on the level of the underlying charge or conviction which was the basis for the person being on electronic monitoring.

Electronic monitoring can be ordered by a court for relatively minor offenses. It can also be ordered as a condition of bond, meaning before a person is convicted of any criminal offense. A person on bond or probation for a class B misdemeanor, like a first time DUI, who tampers with their electronic monitoring device would currently be charged with a severity level 6 felony. A severity level 6 felony carries a penalty range of 17-46 months in prison depending on the person's prior criminal history and, for those with prior felonies on their record or who were on probation or bond for a felony, it could result in a presumption of imprisonment.

Changing the severity levels would bring the punishment more in line with the underlying charge or conviction forming the basis for the electronic monitoring. Furthermore, it puts it more in line with what is arguably a more serious offense -- escape from prison or jail -- which is a misdemeanor or a severity level 8 nonperson felony, with the more serious escapes being severity level 5 or 6.

We urge this Committee to pass House Bill 2027 amending the penalties for tampering with electronic monitoring equipment.

Thank you for your consideration, Jennifer  
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co-chair, Legislative Committee

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