

SESSION OF 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2515

As Amended by House Committee on
Local Government

Brief*

HB 2515 would prohibit a municipality from requiring the installation of a multi-purpose sprinkler system in a residential structure. The term “residential structure” is defined in the bill as including a single-family dwelling, multi-family dwelling of four attached units or less, or any manufactured home.

Background

The bill was supported by representatives of the Kansas Association of Realtors, the Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas Manufactured Housing Association, and the Kansas Building Industry Association. Proponents indicated the bill’s purpose was to prevent the imposition of a sprinkler mandate by municipalities because such a mandate could reduce the availability of affordable housing. Other reasons were mentioned as well.

Opponents included representatives of an insurance company, the League of Kansas Municipalities and several cities, the Kansas Association of Counties, the State Fire Marshal, state fire chiefs, fire marshals and fire education associations, the National Fire Protection Association, the International Code Council, and several municipal fire departments. Opponents’ concerns centered around safety, the costs of residential fires, and the issue of local control, among other items.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

The House Committee on Local Government amended the bill by adding manufactured home to the definition of “residential structure.”

According to the fiscal note, there would be no fiscal effect to cities resulting from the bill's passage. Furthermore, it was noted sprinkler systems might diminish the number of fires, thereby saving government costs associated with fire fighting.