

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2075

As Amended by House Committee on Local
Government

Brief*

HB 2075 would amend existing law regarding abandoned property.

The bill would expand the definition of "abandoned property" to include any residential real estate that has been unoccupied continuously by persons legally in possession for the preceding 180 days and that has a blighting influence on surrounding properties. It also would make several changes to the definition of "blighting influence."

Abandoned properties rehabilitated under the act could be used for community development, in addition to housing, which is the only use currently allowed.

Any city would be authorized to file a petition with the district court for temporary possession of abandoned property in the same manner as currently authorized for non-profit organizations that improve housing. A city would have to designate an organization to rehabilitate the property.

Background

Representative Frownfelter testified in support of the bill in the House Committee on Local Government. He stated vacant, nuisance properties have become a plague for local governments, in severe cases drawing rats, squatters, vandals, and drug dealers, and creating a chronic downdraft

*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>

in property values. Additional testimony in support of the bill was presented by representatives of Homestead Affordable Housing, the League of Kansas Municipalities, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. Written proponent testimony was received from representatives of the City of Newton, the City of Wichita, and Liveable Neighborhoods.

Neutral testimony was presented by a representative of the Associated Landlords of Kansas, and written neutral testimony was provided by the Kansas Association of Realtors.

There was no testimony in opposition to the bill.

The House Committee on Local Government amended the bill to make changes to the definition of "blighting influence" and to delete economic development as an allowable use of property rehabilitated under the act.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill indicated the Kansas Association of Counties stated the bill would have no fiscal effect on local governments, and the League of Kansas Municipalities stated it was not possible at this time to estimate what the effect of passage of the bill might be.