



**Miami County, Kansas
Code Services Department**

Building Inspection • Environmental Health
Code Enforcement • Sewer District Operations
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RE: S.B. 76

Miami County adopted contractor licensing in 1995 along with the model code published by the International Conference of Building Officials. This action was taken by the Board of County Commissioners in response to concerns from contractors and citizens of the county regarding unethical conduct and shoddy workmanship by some contractors. The intent of the Miami County Licensing program is to establish minimum qualification standards, a minimum level of liability and workman's comp insurance and minimum annual continuing education requirements. This creates a level playing field for contractors wishing to work in the county as well as some level of protection and peace of mind for the citizens by knowing that there is at least minimal government oversight of the contractors working on their homes.

The licensing regulations and codes were amended in 2001 and again in 2006 to expand the requirements for testing qualifications, levels of insurance and continuing education. These amendments were made with the input of contractors and citizens serving on the Code Review Board making recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Through the years the county has signed inter-local agreements with the cities of Fontana, Louisburg, Osawatomie and Spring Hill to administer their licensing programs essentially making the program "County Wide." Additionally Miami County, Johnson County and the city of Lawrence has entered into reciprocal agreements whereby applicants only need to show a license from one of the jurisdictions to obtain a license from one of the others. As you can see the Miami County and similar programs have grown and developed over their existence.

The Kansas Roofing Registration Act was enacted by the Kansas Legislature and signed by the Governor on April 22, 2013. This act requires that all roofing contractors in the state of Kansas register with the Attorney General and pay a registration fee of \$250. The proposal in S.B. 76 would cap fees associated with contractor licensing at the city or county level at \$25. Why does the A.G.'s office charge 10 times the amount you are proposing local agencies charge for a similar service? Because that is what it costs to administer the program! The Miami County Code Services Department is substantially a self-funded agency. Fees collected from permits and licensing generally cover the cost of the department's operation. A \$25 license fee will not cover the cost of administering a license.

Any forced reduction in fees will result in either a reduction or elimination of the program or increasing fees on permits and services to make up the difference. Ultimately the fees will be paid by the citizen who is having construction work done. I am asking that this

committee vote to uphold the concept of Home Rule and vote to kill this bill in order that local governing bodies can decide the level of citizen protection and regulation they wish to apply to contractor licensing.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Davis, MCP
Director of Code Services