

- Date of Testimony 1/31/21
- Bill Number: SB360
- Disposition: Proponent
- WRITTEN-ONLY Testimony
- Name of conferee AND cell/text and email contact information-Martha Smith, Cell 785-221-4784
- Name of interest represented: Kansas Manufactured Housing Association



TO: Senator Rob Olson, Chairperson
and Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

FROM: Martha Smith, Executive Director
Kansas Manufactured Housing Association

DATE: January 31, 2021

RE: SB360 – Enacting the Kansas Assistance Animal in Housing Act

Chairman Olson and Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee, my name is Martha Smith and I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Manufactured Housing Association (KMHA). KMHA is a statewide trade association representing all facets of the manufactured and modular housing industries (manufacturers, retail centers, manufactured home community owners and operators, service and supplier companies, finance and insurance companies and transport companies) and I appreciate the opportunity to provide written support of SB 360 – Enacting the Kansas Assistance Animal in Housing Act.

SB360 follows the January 28, 2020, FHEO-2020-01– Assessing a Person’s Request to Have an Animal as a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Fair Housing Act which provides guidance for housing providers and a set of best practices for complying with the Federal Housing Act (FHA). It is important to note that FHEO-2020-01 is “guidance”, it is to be used as a tool for housing providers and persons with a disability to use at their discretion. With that in mind, KMHA supports putting the definitions, and fines into Kansas law.

For tenants, SB360 makes it an offense to misrepresent the entitlement to an assistance animal: on the first conviction a fine of not less than \$25 but not more than \$100; upon second conviction Class C misdemeanor; and upon third conviction a class A misdemeanor.

For housing providers who do not follow the federal law, FHEO-2020-01 reminds them that, “housing providers may be subject to the requirements of several civil rights laws, including but not limited to the FHA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).”

In closing, KMHA supports SB360 which is narrowly focused and puts into statute penalties for the misrepresentation to the entitlement of an assistance animal in housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB360 and we would ask for the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee to support SB360.