

Proponent, In-Person, SB 376

PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR SB 376
An Extension of the Kansas Rural Housing Incentive Act
February 7, 2022

Fellow Committee Members:

I support SB 376 an extension of the Kansas Rural Housing Incentive Act and will provide vital stimulation of the development of new housing, especially in the low and mid-income ranges of residential options.

The bill would add the City of Topeka as being qualified to benefit from the Kansas Rural Housing Incentive District Act. The bill would allow bond money issued under the Act to be used for the renovation or construction of single-family residential dwellings, multi-family residential dwellings, or buildings or other structures exclusively for residential use located on existing lots with infrastructure as specified in the Act. In addition, the bill would allow bond money to be used for buildings and other structures to be owned by or to be leased to any developer of a residential housing project within the district if it was used exclusively for residential use as provided in the Act.

The bill would increase the Economic Development Initiatives Fund to the State Housing Trust Fund from \$2.0 million to \$20.0 million in FY 2023 and FY 2024.

75.0 percent of the monies in the State Housing Trust Fund would be required to be used solely for the purpose of loans or grants to cities while the remaining 25.0 percent would be required to be used solely for the purpose of loans or grants to cities or counties with a population of 60,000 or more for infrastructure or housing development in urban areas.

I agree with the assumptions provided by the Kansas Association of Counties that the enactment of SB 376 would result in growth if individuals were to move to communities using the program, resulting in higher property tax collections and higher sales tax receipts.

I strongly encourage the committee to support this initiative to boost the development of residential housing stock in the categories most urgently needed.

Sincerely,

Rob Olson
Senate District 23