HOUSE BILL No. 2255

By Committee on Welfare Reform

2-1

AN ACT concerning municipalities; relating to municipalities and housing authorities; requiring public housing authorities to implement work requirements for able-bodied adults to receive public housing assistance; instituting waivers for households with no able-bodied adults; amending K.S.A. 17-2345 and repealing the existing section.

WHEREAS, The purpose of this act is to ensure that individuals who are able to work are required to work, train, or volunteer to receive housing benefits, in order to preserve limited resources for truly needy Americans.

Now, therefore:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) A municipality or housing authority shall require all able-bodied adults applying to the municipality or authority for housing assistance or federal funds distributed by the municipality or housing authority, to:

(1) Work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly;
(2) participate in and complying with the requirements of a work program 20 hours or more per week;
(3) volunteer 20 hours or more per week; or
(4) meet any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours or more per week.

(b) To implement subsection (a), the municipality or housing authority shall:

(1) Conduct screening to determine whether each applicant or tenant in public housing administered by the municipality or housing authority is able-bodied and compliant with such a work requirement; and
(2) create an employability plan for each able-bodied adult in households that receive housing assistance consistent with the work requirement and terminate assistance for any households with able-bodied adults who fail to comply within 60 days of non-compliance.

(c) Each municipality or housing authority shall award and prioritize households where all able-bodied adults in the household are compliant with work requirements described in subsection (a). A municipality or housing authority shall not give priority to households where there are able-bodied adults compliant with work requirements described in
subsection (a) over a household with no able-bodied adults subject to
requirements described in subsection (a).

(d) Each municipality or housing authority shall request federal
approval of implementation of this section from the United States
department of housing and urban development by January 1, 2025. If
federal approval is not granted, each municipality or authority shall
resubmit a request for approval within 24 months of the receipt of such
denial.

(e) As used in this section, "able-bodied adult" means an individual
who is not:

(1) Under the age of 19;
(2) over the age of 59;
(3) medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for
employment;
(4) pregnant;
(5) a parent or caretaker responsible for the care of a dependent child
under four months of age;
(6) a parent or caretaker personally providing the care for a dependent
child with serious medical conditions or with a disability;
(7) receiving unemployment compensation and complying with work
requirements that are part of a federal or state unemployment
compensation system; or
(8) participating in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and
rehabilitation program.

(f) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to the municipal
housing law, K.S.A. 17-2337, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 17-2345 is hereby amended to read as follows: 17-

(a) To prepare, carry out, and operate housing projects and to provide
for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, extension, alteration or
repair of any housing project or any part thereof but in the carrying out of
the municipal law under the provisions of this act, public utilities, either
publicly or privately owned, shall not be required to locate, relocate,
remove or readjust utility facilities and services without fair and
reasonable compensation.

(b) To undertake and carry out studies and analyses of the housing
needs and of the meeting of such needs (including data with respect to
population and family groups and the distribution thereof according to
income groups, the amount and quality of available housing and its
distribution according to rentals and sales prices, employment, wages and
other factors affecting the local housing needs and the meeting thereof)
and to make the results of such studies and analyses available to the public
and the building, housing and supply industries; and to engage in research
and disseminate information on housing and slum clearance.

c) To arrange or contract for the furnishing by any person or agency,
public or private, of services, privileges, works, or facilities for, or in
connection with, a housing project or the occupants thereof; and
(notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this act or in any
other provision of law) to agree to any conditions attached to federal
financial assistance, and to comply with any conditions which the federal
government may have attached to its financial aid of the project.

d) To lease or rent any dwellings, accommodations, lands, buildings,
structures or facilities embraced in any project and (subject to the
limitations contained in this act with respect to the rental of dwellings in
housing projects) to establish and revise the rents or charges therefor; to
own, hold, and improve real or personal property; to purchase, lease,
obtain options upon, acquire by gift, grant, bequest, devise, or otherwise
any real or personal property or any interest therein; to acquire by the
exercise of the power of eminent domain any real property; to sell, lease,
exchange, transfer, assign, pledge or dispose of any real or personal
property or any interest therein as any part of the property of a housing
authority established under this act; to insure or provide for the insurance,
in any stock or mutual company, of any real or personal property or
operations of the authority against any risks or hazards; to procure or agree
to the procurement of federal or state government insurance or guarantees
of the payment of any bonds or parts thereof issued by an authority,
including the power to pay premiums on any such insurance.

e) To invest any reserve or sinking funds held in connection with a
housing project which are not required for immediate disbursements, in
investments authorized by K.S.A. 12-1675, and amendments thereto, in
the manner prescribed therein or in direct obligations of the United States
government or any agency thereof; to redeem its bonds at the redemption
price established therein or to purchase its bonds at less than such
redemption price, all bonds so redeemed or purchases to be cancelled.

f) To determine where slum areas exist or where there is unsafe,
insanitary or overcrowded housing; to make studies and recommendations
relating to the problem of clearing, replanning and reconstructing of slum
areas and the problem of eliminating unsafe, insanitary or overcrowded
housing and providing dwelling accommodations for persons of low
income; and to cooperate with any state public body in action taken in
connection with these problems.

g) To conduct examinations and investigations and to hear testimony
and take proof under oath at public or private hearings on any matter
material for its information; to administer oaths, issue subpoenas requiring
the attendance of witnesses or the production of books and papers and to
issue commissions for the examination of witnesses who are outside of the state or unable to attend or excused from attendance; to make available to appropriate agencies (including those charged with the duty of abating or requiring the correction of nuisances or like conditions or of demolishing unsafe or insanitary structures within its area of operation) its findings and recommendations with regard to any building or property where conditions exist which are dangerous to the public health, morals, safety or welfare.

(h) To insure or provide for the insurance of any housing project of the municipality against such risks as such municipality may deem advisable.

(i) To exercise all or any part or combination of powers herein granted.

(j) To prepare plans and provide assistance of all kinds for the relocation of families displaced from a slum or blighted area by the municipal housing law, and to provide adequate recreational facilities, in the overall plan of the municipal housing area.

(k) To adopt rules and processes to implement requirements for able-bodied adults applying for housing assistance or federal funds distributed by a municipality or housing authority pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 17-2345 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.