

**HOUSE BILL No. 2506**

By Committee on Local Government

1-19

1 AN ACT concerning cities; relating to the rehabilitation of abandoned  
2 property; amending K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 12-1750 and 12-1756a and  
3 repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 12-  
4 1756e.

5  
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 12-1750 is hereby amended to read as  
8 follows: 12-1750. As used in this act:

9 (a) "Structure" means any building, wall or other structure.

10 (b) "Enforcing officer" means the building inspector or other officer  
11 designated by ordinance and charged with the administration of the  
12 provisions of this act.

13 (c) (1) "Abandoned property" means:

14 ~~(1) Any residential real estate for which taxes are delinquent for the~~  
15 ~~preceding two years and which has been unoccupied continuously by~~  
16 ~~persons legally in possession for the preceding 90 days; or~~

17 ~~(2) (A) Any residential real estate for which taxes are delinquent for~~  
18 ~~the preceding two years that has been unoccupied continuously by persons~~  
19 ~~legally in possession for the preceding 15 months and that has a blighting~~  
20 ~~influence on surrounding properties, unless the exterior of the property is~~  
21 ~~being maintained and the property is either the subject of a probate~~  
22 ~~action, action to quiet title or other ownership dispute, or the property is~~  
23 ~~subject to a mortgage; or~~

24 (B) commercial real estate for which the taxes are delinquent for the  
25 preceding two years and which has a blighting influence on surrounding  
26 properties. "Commercial real estate" means any real estate for which the  
27 present *approved* use is other than one to four residential units or for  
28 agricultural purposes.

29 (2) "Abandoned property" shall not mean any real estate whose  
30 owner is known and has expressed in writing to the governing body a  
31 desire to retain ownership and maintain such real estate and has brought  
32 the property into code compliance within 90 days of such expressed desire.

33 (d) "Blighting influence" means conditions in such structure which  
34 are dangerous or injurious to the health, safety or ~~morals~~ *welfare* of the  
35 occupants of such buildings or other residents of the municipality ~~or which~~  
36 ~~have an adverse impact on properties in the area.~~ Such conditions may

1 include, but are not limited to, the following: Defects increasing the  
 2 hazards of fire, accident, or other calamities; air pollution; ~~light or lack of~~  
 3 sanitary facilities; dilapidation; disrepair; structural defects; ~~uncleanliness;~~  
 4 ~~dead and dying trees, limbs or other unsightly natural growth or unsightly~~  
 5 ~~appearances that constitute a blight to adjoining property, the~~  
 6 ~~neighborhood or the city; walls, sidings or exteriors of a quality and~~  
 7 ~~appearance not commensurate with the character of the properties in the~~  
 8 ~~neighborhood;~~ unsightly stored or parked material, equipment, supplies,  
 9 machinery, trucks or automobiles or parts thereof; vermin infestation;  
 10 ~~inadequate drainage;~~ or any violation of health, fire, building or *property*  
 11 *maintenance codes* or zoning regulations *that constitute a health or safety*  
 12 *threat.*

13 (e) "Organization" means any nonprofit corporation organized under  
 14 the laws of this state ~~and which~~ *that* has among its purposes the  
 15 improvement of housing *and has been in existence for a period of three*  
 16 *years or more.*

17 (f) "Rehabilitation" means the process of improving the property into  
 18 compliance with applicable fire, housing and building codes.

19 (g) "Parties in interest" means any owner or owners of record,  
 20 judgment creditor, tax purchaser or other party having any legal or  
 21 equitable title or interest in the property.

22 (h) "Last known address" includes the address where the property is  
 23 located, or the address as listed in the tax records.

24 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 12-1756a is hereby amended to read as  
 25 follows: 12-1756a. (a) *(1)* An organization may file a petition with the  
 26 district court for an order for temporary possession of property if:

27 ~~(1)-(A)~~ The property meets the definition of abandoned as set forth in  
 28 K.S.A. 12-1750, and amendments thereto;

29 ~~(2)-(B)~~ the organization intends to rehabilitate the property and use  
 30 the property as housing; and

31 ~~(3)-(C)~~ the organization has sent notice to the enforcing officer and  
 32 the parties in interest of the property, by certified or registered mail, mailed  
 33 to their last known address and posted on the property at least 20 days but  
 34 not more than 60 days before the date the petition is filed, of the  
 35 organization's intent to file a petition for possession under K.S.A. 12-1750  
 36 through ~~12-1756e~~ *12-1756d*, and amendments thereto.

37 *(2) The governing body of any city may file a petition with the district*  
 38 *court for an order for temporary possession of property if:*

39 *(A) The property meets the definition of abandoned in K.S.A. 12-*  
 40 *1750, and amendments thereto;*

41 *(B) the governing body of the city filing a petition under this section*  
 42 *has designated an organization to rehabilitate the property;*

43 *(C) such designated organization intends to rehabilitate the property*

1 *and use the property as housing; and*

2 *(D) the governing body of the city filing the petition under this*  
 3 *section has formally approved the filing of the petition.*

4 *(b) The governing body of the city or the organization filing the*  
 5 *petition shall send notice to the enforcing officer and the parties in interest*  
 6 *of the property, owners of property located within 200 feet of the property*  
 7 *that is subject to the petition and any neighborhood improvement*  
 8 *association or associations in which the property is located, by certified or*  
 9 *registered mail, mailed to their last known address and posted on their*  
 10 *property at least 20 days, but not more than 60 days, before the date the*  
 11 *petition is filed, of the governing body's intent to file a petition for*  
 12 *temporary possession under K.S.A. 12-1750 through 12-1756d, and*  
 13 *amendments thereto.*

14 ~~(b)~~(c) *(1) The proceeding shall be commenced by filing a verified*  
 15 *petition in the district court in the county in which the property is located.*  
 16 *The petition shall state that the conditions specified in subsection (a) exist.*  
 17 *All parties in interest of the property shall be named as defendants in the*  
 18 *petition.*

19 *(2) The petition shall include the following information:*

20 *(A) The history of municipal utility service for the property for the*  
 21 *preceding 365 days or longer;*

22 *(B) the history of property tax payments for the preceding three years*  
 23 *or longer;*

24 *(C) the history of code violations for the preceding two years or*  
 25 *longer and efforts by the city to remedy the code violations;*

26 *(D) the history of attempts to notify the last known owner or owners*  
 27 *of any enforcement action or actions; and*

28 *(E) the history of actions taken by other governmental entities*  
 29 *regarding the property, including, but not limited to, tax liens or*  
 30 *bankruptcy proceedings.*

31 *(3) Summons shall be issued and service shall be made pursuant to*  
 32 *K.S.A. 60-303, and amendments thereto. Service may be made by*  
 33 *publication if the organization or the governing body of a city with due*  
 34 *diligence is unable to make service of summons upon a defendant pursuant*  
 35 *to subsection (a)(3) of K.S.A. 60-307(a)(3), and amendments thereto.*

36 *(c) Any defendant may file as part of such defendant's answer, as an*  
 37 *affirmative defense, a plan for the rehabilitation of the property and*  
 38 *evidence of capacity and resources necessary to complete rehabilitation of*  
 39 *the property. The court shall grant the defendant 90 days to bring the*  
 40 *property into compliance with applicable fire, housing and building codes*  
 41 *and to pay all delinquent ad valorem property tax. For good cause shown,*  
 42 *the court may extend the ninety-day compliance period for an additional*  
 43 *90 days. If the property is brought into such compliance within the ninety-*

1 day period or extension of time thereof, the petition shall be dismissed. If  
2 the defendant fails to bring the property into such compliance within the  
3 ninety-day period or extension of time thereof, or if the defendant's plan is  
4 otherwise insufficient, the defendant's affirmative defense shall be  
5 stricken. *In no case shall the defendant's affirmative defense be stricken*  
6 *solely on the basis of delinquent property taxes.*

7 (d) At the hearing on ~~the organization's~~ a petition *filed in accordance*  
8 *with, and as permitted by, subsection (a), the petitioning organization or*  
9 *governing body of a city* shall submit to the court a plan for the  
10 rehabilitation of the property and present evidence that the organization  
11 has adequate resources to rehabilitate and thereafter manage the property.  
12 For the purpose of developing such a plan, representatives of the  
13 organization *or the governing body of a city* may be permitted entry onto  
14 the property by the court at such times and on such terms as the court may  
15 deem appropriate.

16 (e) The court shall make its own determination as to whether the  
17 property is in fact abandoned consistent with the terms of K.S.A. 12-1750  
18 through ~~12-1756e~~ 12-1756d, and amendments thereto.

19 (f) If the court approves the petition, the court ~~shall~~ *may* enter an  
20 order approving the rehabilitation plan and granting temporary possession  
21 of the property to the *petitioning organization or governing body of a city.*  
22 ~~The organization, subject to court approval, may enter into leases or other~~  
23 ~~agreements in relation to the property.~~ Whether the court approves or  
24 denies the petition, the organization shall provide the governing body of a  
25 city a copy of the order within 30 days of the organization's receipt or  
26 knowledge of such order.

27 (g) (1) *Not less than 365 days nor more than 730 days after receiving*  
28 *temporary possession of property by an order of the court upon a petition*  
29 *for temporary possession, an organization shall seek title to such property*  
30 *by petition to the court. The petitioner for title shall send notice of intent*  
31 *to file the petition to the parties of interest of the property, by certified or*  
32 *registered mail, mailed to their last known address at least 20 days, but*  
33 *not more than 60 days before the date the petition is filed.*

34 (2) *Upon a finding by the court that the property has been*  
35 *rehabilitated in accordance with the approved rehabilitation plan, the*  
36 *court shall grant the petition for title. If no petition for title is filed as*  
37 *permitted by this subsection or a petition for title is filed as permitted by*  
38 *this subsection but the court finds that the organization that filed the*  
39 *petition has not rehabilitated the property in accordance with the*  
40 *rehabilitation plan approved by the court, the property shall immediately*  
41 *be sold by either the board of county commissioners or the governing body*  
42 *of a city in the manner prescribed for sale of property at a judicial tax*  
43 *foreclosure sale pursuant to K.S.A. 79-2801 et seq., and amendments*

1 *thereto.*

2       Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 12-1750, 12-1756a and 12-1756e are  
3 hereby repealed.

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