

HOUSE BILL No. 2255

By Committee on Welfare Reform

2-1

1 AN ACT concerning municipalities; relating to municipalities and housing
2 authorities; requiring public housing authorities to implement work
3 requirements for able-bodied adults to receive public housing
4 assistance; instituting waivers for households with no able-bodied
5 adults; amending K.S.A. 17-2345 and repealing the existing section.
6

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

11 Now, therefore:

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

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

17 (1) Work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly;

18 (2) participate in and complying with the requirements of a work
19 program 20 hours or more per week;

20 (3) volunteer 20 hours or more per week; or

21 (4) meet any combination of working and participating in a work
22 program for a total of 20 hours or more per week.

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

25 (1) Conduct screening to determine whether each applicant or tenant
26 in public housing administered by the municipality or housing authority is
27 able-bodied and compliant with such a work requirement; and

28 (2) create an employability plan for each able-bodied adult in
29 households that receive housing assistance consistent with the work
30 requirement and terminate assistance for any households with able-bodied
31 adults who fail to comply within 60 days of non-compliance.

32 (c) Each municipality or housing authority shall award and prioritize
33 households where all able-bodied adults in the household are compliant
34 with work requirements described in subsection (a). A municipality or
35 housing authority shall not give priority to households where there are
36 able-bodied adults compliant with work requirements described in

1 subsection (a) over a household with no able-bodied adults subject to
2 requirements described in subsection (a).

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

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

11 (1) Under the age of 19;

12 (2) over the age of 59;

13 (3) medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for
14 employment;

15 (4) pregnant;

16 (5) a parent or caretaker responsible for the care of a dependent child
17 under four months of age;

18 (6) a parent or caretaker personally providing the care for a dependent
19 child with serious medical conditions or with a disability;

20 (7) receiving unemployment compensation and complying with work
21 requirements that are part of a federal or state unemployment
22 compensation system; or

23 (8) participating in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and
24 rehabilitation program.

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

27 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 17-2345 is hereby amended to read as follows: 17-
28 2345. Every municipality, in addition to other powers conferred by this or
29 any other act, shall have powers:

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

37 (b) To undertake and carry out studies and analyses of the housing
38 needs and of the meeting of such needs (including data with respect to
39 population and family groups and the distribution thereof according to
40 income groups, the amount and quality of available housing and its
41 distribution according to rentals and sales prices, employment, wages and
42 other factors affecting the local housing needs and the meeting thereof)
43 and to make the results of such studies and analyses available to the public

1 and the building, housing and supply industries; and to engage in research
2 and disseminate information on housing and slum clearance.

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

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

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

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

40 (g) To conduct examinations and investigations and to hear testimony
41 and take proof under oath at public or private hearings on any matter
42 material for its information; to administer oaths, issue subpoenas requiring
43 the attendance of witnesses or the production of books and papers and to

1 issue commissions for the examination of witnesses who are outside of the
2 state or unable to attend or excused from attendance; to make available to
3 appropriate agencies (including those charged with the duty of abating or
4 requiring the correction of nuisances or like conditions or of demolishing
5 unsafe or insanitary structures within its area of operation) its findings and
6 recommendations with regard to any building or property where conditions
7 exist which are dangerous to the public health, morals, safety or welfare.

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

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

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

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

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

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