

SENATE BILL No. 52

AN ACT establishing the Sedgwick county urban area nuisance abatement act.

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

Section 1. (a) Sections 1 through 6, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the Sedgwick county urban area nuisance abatement act.

(b) Sedgwick county has been declared an urban area under K.S.A. 19-2654, and amendments thereto, as permitted by section 17 of article 2 of the constitution of the state of Kansas.

(c) Before any nuisance abatement process shall be commenced under this act, Sedgwick county first shall have obtained a conviction for a county code violation resulting from such nuisance within the 12-month period prior to the issuance of any order as provided in section 2, and amendments thereto.

(d) (1) The board of county commissioners may order the removal or abatement of any nuisance from any lot or parcel of ground within the unincorporated area of the county. The board may order the repair or demolition of any structure, or the removal or abatement of any other type of nuisance.

(2) The order shall provide that all costs associated with the abatement shall be paid by the owner of the property on which the nuisance is located.

Sec. 2. (a) Whenever the board of county commissioners or other agency designated by the board files with the Sedgwick county clerk a statement in writing describing a nuisance and declaring that such nuisance is a menace and dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of the county, the board of county commissioners, by resolution, may make such determination and issue an order requiring the nuisance be removed or abated.

(b) Except as provided by subsection (c), the board of county commissioners shall order the owner of the property to remove and abate the nuisance within not less than 10 days, to be specified in the order. The board or its designated representative may grant extensions of the time period indicated in the order. The order shall state that before the expiration of the waiting period or any extension, the recipient may request a hearing before the board or its designated representative. The order shall be served on the owner by personal service in accordance with K.S.A. 60-303, and amendments thereto.

(c) If the owner of the property has failed to accept delivery or otherwise failed to effectuate receipt of a notice sent pursuant to this section during the preceding 24-month period, the board of county commissioners may provide notice of the issuance of any further orders to abate or remove a nuisance from the property in the manner provided by subsection (d) or as provided in this subsection. The board may provide notice of the order by such methods including, but not limited to, door hangers conspicuously posting notice of the order on the property, personal notification, telephone communication or first class mail. If the property is unoccupied and the owner is a nonresident, notice provided by this section shall be given by telephone communication or first class mail.

(d) If the owner of the property fails to comply with the order for a period longer than that named in the order or any extensions of such time period, the board of county commissioners may proceed to order the repair or demolition of any structure and have the items described in the order removed and abated from the lot or parcel of ground. If the county abates or removes the nuisance, the county shall give notice to the owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the total cost of the abatement or removal incurred by the county. The notice also shall state that payment of the cost is due and payable within 60 days following the mailing of the notice.

(e) If the cost of the removal or abatement is not paid within the 60-day period, the cost shall be assessed and charged against the lot or parcel of land on which the nuisance was located. If the cost is to be assessed, the county clerk, at the time of certifying other county taxes, shall certify the costs, and the county clerk shall extend the cost on the tax roll of the county against the lot or parcel of land. Such cost shall be collected by the county treasurer.

(f) In assessing the cost of removal and abatement of a nuisance, the county shall subtract from the total cost of the abatement or removal incurred by the county the value of the property removed or abated. If the value of the property removed or abated is greater than the cost of the removal or abatement incurred by the county, the county shall pay the owner the difference. If the value of the property is contested, the property owner may request a hearing before the board or its designated representative prior to the 60 days following receipt of notice of costs due and payable under subsection (d).

(g) All orders and notices shall be served on the owner of record or, if there is more than one owner of record, then on at least one such owner.

(h) Any decision of the board of county commissioners or its designated representative is subject to review in accordance with the Kansas judicial review act.

Sec. 3. Sedgwick county may remove and abate from property, other than public property or property open to the use by the public, a motor vehicle determined to be a nuisance. Disposition of such vehicles shall be in compliance with the procedures for impoundment, notice and public auction provided by K.S.A. 8-1102(a)(2), and amendments thereto. Following any sale by public auction of a vehicle determined to be a nuisance, the purchaser may file proof with the division of vehicles, and the division shall issue a certificate of title to the purchaser of the motor vehicle. If a public auction is conducted, but no responsible bid is received, the county may file proof with the division of vehicles, and the division shall issue a certificate of title of the motor vehicle to the county. Any person whose motor vehicle has been disposed of pursuant to this section shall be eligible for a refund of the tax imposed pursuant to K.S.A. 79-5101 et seq., and amendments thereto. The amount of the refund shall be determined in the manner provided by K.S.A. 79-5107, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 4. The board of county commissioners may adopt a resolution to establish any policies, procedures, designated body or other related matters for hearings that property owners or their agents may request pursuant to this act.

Sec. 5. Nothing in the Sedgwick county urban area nuisance abatement act shall apply to land, structures, machinery and equipment or motor vehicles used for an agricultural activity. For purposes of this section, the term "agricultural activity" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 2-3203, and amendments thereto, except such term shall also include real and personal property, machinery, equipment, stored grain and agricultural input products owned or maintained by commercial grain elevators and agribusiness facilities.

Sec. 6. The Sedgwick county urban area nuisance abatement act, sections 1 through 6, and amendments thereto, shall expire on July 1, 2024.

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Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the SENATE, and passed that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

Passed the HOUSE _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

APPROVED _____

Governor.