



POLICY OVERVIEW:

Align Fire Safety With Real Residential Settings

LEGISLATIVE ASK:

Differentiate licensing requirements between residential service providers operating in agency owned or controlled housing and those in privately leased homes, aligning rules with Article 63's approach to residential services in these settings. Assign fire safety oversight to local fire departments or municipalities to allow for local input and control, while recognizing that provider licensing already ensures health and safety protections.

OVERVIEW OF FIRE MARSHAL ISSUES:

Many Kansans with IDD live in small, community-based homes that function as typical residences, not institutions. However, current fire safety enforcement often applies commercial or congregate care standards to these homes, leading to costly and inconsistent requirements across counties. This creates barriers to opening new homes and delays access to services, without improving health or safety outcomes.

GOALS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASK:

- Differentiate licensing and fire safety requirements for agency-owned or controlled residential settings versus privately leased homes, consistent with Article 63.
- Assign fire safety oversight to local fire departments or municipalities to ensure consistent, community-informed standards.
- Acknowledge existing provider licensing safeguards that already ensure health and safety in residential IDD settings.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Clear and consistent fire safety standards make it possible to expand small, community-based housing options without unnecessary cost or delay. Aligning requirements with the way these homes actually operate protects safety while supporting independence, local control, and the development of more residential opportunities for Kansans with IDD.