



**ABOVE AND BEYOND. BY DESIGN.**

Date: Monday, February 11, 2019  
To: Chairman Tarwater and the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
From: City of Overland Park, Kansas  
Re: Testimony in Opposition of HB 2026

Honorable Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee:

The City of Overland Park opposes HB 2026, an Act enacting the fire sprinkler act; creating the fire sprinkler industry act fee fund. The City of Overland Park shares the concerns submitted by the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Johnson County Building Officials, as well as the following concerns:

- In Section 9(c)(2), the requirements for background checks are very restrictive and arduous.
- Section 13 would supersede local licensing requirements for electricians and could interrupt local revenue.
- Section 19(b) gives some regulatory authority over local Fire Departments to the State Fire Marshal and may subject local Fire Departments to unspecified training at the discretion of the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- The content in this bill could be construed as requiring municipal plans examiners and inspectors to be licensed by the State Fire Marshal.
- This bill would effectively prohibit local plumbers from installing fire sprinklers in single family homes using the provisions in the International Residential Code Section P2904.
- In Section 3(a), the bill leaves complete and unrestrained authority as to the enforcement parameters to whatever the State Fire Marshal writes in the regulations, which would not be subjected to the review of the Legislature.

Finally, there is no established justification for the bill or problem that needs to be solved. For these reasons, the City of Overland Park asks that the Committee not recommend the approval of HB 2026.