

**SENATE BILL No. 206**

By Committee on Judiciary

2-10

1 AN ACT enacting the fairness in condemnation act; imposing certain  
2 duties on the plaintiff condemning authority; notice and opportunity for  
3 negotiation.  
4

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

6 Section 1. (a) At least 60 days before filing of a condemnation  
7 petition seeking to acquire an interest in real property under K.S.A. 26-  
8 502, and amendments thereto, the plaintiff condemning authority shall  
9 provide each owner of record of the property with a written notice  
10 concerning the intended condemnation. The notice shall include:

11 (1) Identification of the interest in real property to be acquired and a  
12 statement of the legal description or commonly known location or address  
13 of the property;

14 (2) the purpose or purposes for which the property is to be acquired;

15 (3) a statement that the property owner has the right to:

16 (A) Seek legal counsel at the owner's expense;

17 (B) make a counteroffer for the sale of the property and engage in  
18 further negotiations;

19 (C) obtain the owner's own appraisal of the value of the interest to be  
20 condemned; and

21 (D) contest the right to condemn in a separate legal proceeding.

22 (b) An owner may waive the notice requirements of this section by a  
23 written waiver executed by the owner.

24 (c) The written notice required by this section shall be deposited in  
25 the United States mail, certified or registered, and with postage prepaid,  
26 addressed to the owner of record as listed in the office of the county  
27 appraiser in which the property is located. The receipt issued to the  
28 condemning authority by the United States post office for certified or  
29 registered mail shall constitute proof of compliance with this notice  
30 requirement. Nothing in this section shall preclude a condemning authority  
31 from proving compliance by other competent evidence.

32 Sec. 2. (a) The plaintiff condemning authority shall present a written  
33 offer to each owner of record of the property. The offer must be made at  
34 least 30 days before filing a condemnation petition as provided in K.S.A.  
35 26-502, and amendments thereto. The offer shall be deposited in the  
36 United States mail, certified or registered, and with postage prepaid,

1 addressed to the owner of record. The receipt issued to the condemning  
2 authority by the United States post office for certified or registered mail  
3 shall constitute proof of compliance with this requirement. Nothing in this  
4 section shall preclude a condemning authority from proving compliance  
5 with this requirement by other competent evidence.

6 (b) The plaintiff condemning authority, at the time of the offer, shall  
7 provide the property owner with an appraisal or an explanation with  
8 supporting financial data for its determination of the value of the property.  
9 Any appraisal shall be made by a state certified or licensed appraiser using  
10 generally accepted appraisal practices.

11 Sec. 3. (a) Before a district court may enter an order of condemnation  
12 under the eminent domain procedure act, K.S.A. 26-501 et seq., and  
13 amendments thereto, the court shall make a finding that the plaintiff  
14 condemning authority engaged in good faith negotiations prior to filing the  
15 condemnation petition. A plaintiff condemning authority shall be deemed  
16 to have engaged in good faith negotiations if:

17 (1) All notices to property owners have been given as required by  
18 section 1, and amendments thereto;

19 (2) the offer under section 2, and amendments thereto, was not lower  
20 than the amount reflected in an appraisal performed by a state licensed or  
21 certified appraiser for the condemning authority, and an actual appraisal  
22 was given to the owner as provided in section 2, and amendments thereto;

23 (3) the owner has been given an opportunity to obtain the owner's  
24 own appraisal from a state licensed or certified appraiser of the owner's  
25 choice; and

26 (4) where applicable, the plaintiff condemning authority has  
27 considered any alternate location suggested by the property owner.

28 (b) If the court does not find that good faith negotiations have  
29 occurred, the court shall dismiss the condemnation petition, without  
30 prejudice, and shall order the condemning authority to reimburse the  
31 owner for the owner's actual and reasonable attorney fees and costs  
32 incurred with respect to the condemnation proceeding that has been  
33 dismissed.

34 (c) Sections 1 through 3, and amendments thereto, shall be known  
35 and may be cited as the fairness in condemnation act.

36 (d) The fairness in condemnation act shall be a part of and  
37 supplemental to the eminent domain procedure act.

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