STATE OF KANSAS

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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-04

Establishing the Governor's Uniform Fire Code Task Force

WHEREAS, the current Kansas fire code is more than 20 years old and does not reflect modern building materials, construction methods and fire protection technologies;

WHEREAS, updating the fire code in Kansas is critical to align with modern, nationally recognized safety standards that provide advanced safety measures not available in older codes;

WHEREAS, updating the state code brings Kansas in line with the majority of local municipalities, cities and counties, reducing confusion for architects, engineers, and builders;

WHEREAS, the move to newer codes will create a positive economic impact and flexibility by implementing modern standards that are often less restrictive in certain areas and thereby provide cost savings to facilities;

WHEREAS, the updated codes provide updated safety standards for K-12 education, childcare, colleges, assembly, businesses, hotels and residential care facilities;

WHEREAS, the Kansas State Legislature passed 2026 HB 2739 authorizing a streamlined approach to update the fire code to more modern standards during this calendar year.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby establish the Governor's Uniform Fire Code Task Force ("Task Force"):

1. **Membership.** The Governor shall appoint the following to serve as members of the Task Force:

    a. A representative of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office who shall serve as chair.

    b. A representative of the Attorney General's Office (ex officio)

    c. A representative of the Kansas Governor's Office (ex officio)

    d. A representative of the Office of Early Childhood (ex officio)

    e. Two representatives of municipal governments nominated by the League of Municipalities

    f. A representative of the Association of School Superintendents

g. A representative of the Kansas Board of Regents

h. A representative of the nursing home industry

i. A representative of the Kansas Building Industry Association

j. A representative of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Kansas

k. A representative of the Kansas Hospital Association

l. A representative of an association representing Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities

m. Two representatives of firefighter associations within the state of Kansas

n. Two representatives of labor unions representing workers who install fire protection equipment

o. A representative of an association representing engineers

p. A representative of an association representing architects

q. One legislator selected by the Majority Leader of the Senate

r. One legislator selected by the Minority Leader of the Senate

s. One legislator selected by the Majority Leader of the House

t. One legislator selected by the Minority Leader of the House

u. Others as deemed appropriate by the Governor

2. **Organization.** The Governor shall select a chair and vice-chair, or co-chairs, from the Task Force's membership, and the Task Force may establish rules for the Task Force's meetings and conduct of business.

3. **Terms**. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

4. **Compensation.** Members shall receive no compensation or reimbursements for expenses and shall serve voluntarily. Officers or employees of state agencies who are appointed to the Task Force as part of their duties shall be authorized to participate on the Task Force and may claim subsistence, allowance, mileage, or associated expenses from their respective agency budgets as permitted by law.

5. **Open Records and Open Meetings.** The Task Force shall be subject to the Kansas Open Records Act and the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

6. **Duties.** The Task Force shall:

    a. Review the proposed State Fire Prevention Code and associated amendments recommended by the Office of the State Fire Marshal;

    b. Identify and evaluate significant policy, technical, operational, fiscal, and implementation issues associated with the proposed State Fire Prevention Code;

    c. Evaluate matters related to the statewide administration, enforcement, training, and implementation of issues associated with the proposed State Fire Prevention Code;

    d. Provide advisory findings and recommendations to the State Fire Marshal regarding adoption, amendment, administration, and implementation of the State Fire Prevention Code; and

    e. Research and evaluate the processes utilized by other states for the development, review, adoption, and periodic updating of statewide fire prevention codes, and provide recommendations to the Governor and the 2027 Kansas Legislature regarding the establishment of long-term fire code adoption and review process for the State of Kansas.

7. **Timelines.** The Task Force Shall abide by the following timelines:

    a. **August 15, 2026:** Complete review of the proposed fire code language and make final recommendations to the State Fire Marshal. Code amendments will be submitted into the regulatory review process at this time.

    b. **September 30, 2026:** Finalize recommendations for the State Fire Marshal on the administration, enforcement, training and implementation for the new fire prevention code.

    c. **November 30, 2026:** Provide a final report of recommendations to the Governor and Legislature with proposed legislation to ensure that the state fire prevention code is periodically reviewed and updated.

8. **Meetings.** The Task Force shall meet as determined by the chairs in order to meet the obligations set forth by this order.

9. **Staffing.** The Task Force shall be staffed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order 26-04. It shall become effective immediately and remain in force until rescinded.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE BY THE GOVERNOR

DATED 6.29.26

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State

FILED
JUN 29 2026
SCOTT SCHWAB
SECRETARY OF STATE