

HOUSE BILL No. 2647

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Requested by Representative Blew

1-31

1 AN ACT concerning rural communities in Kansas; creating the Kansas
2 rural downtown revitalization act; establishing the rural downtown
3 revitalization fund; making transfers to such fund; prescribing
4 guidelines for the expenditure of moneys credited thereto and the duties
5 of the department of commerce and the director of Kansas main street;
6 requiring annual reports to certain committees of the legislature.

7
8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 Section 1. (a) Sections 1 through 5, and amendments thereto, shall be
10 known and may be cited as the Kansas rural downtown revitalization act.

11 (b) The purpose of the Kansas rural downtown revitalization act is to
12 revitalize the downtown areas in rural Kansas towns and improve the
13 quality of life in rural Kansas communities.

14 (c) As used in the Kansas rural downtown revitalization act:

15 (1) "Director" means the director of Kansas main street in the
16 department of commerce; and

17 (2) "Eligible rural community" means a county with a population of
18 40,000 or less.

19 Sec. 2. There is hereby established in the state treasury the rural
20 downtown revitalization fund, which shall be administered by the
21 department of commerce. All expenditures from the rural downtown
22 revitalization fund shall be for grants to eligible rural communities. Each
23 grant shall require a match of non-state moneys on a \$1-for-\$1 basis from
24 private, local or federal resources. All expenditures from the rural
25 downtown revitalization fund shall be made in accordance with
26 appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports
27 issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the director of Kansas main street
28 or the designee of the director.

29 Sec. 3. (a) On July 1, 2024, July 1, 2025, July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027,
30 July 1, 2028, and July 1, 2029, or as soon thereafter as moneys are
31 available, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer \$2,000,000
32 from the state general fund to the rural downtown revitalization fund.

33 (b) In each fiscal year in which moneys are authorized to be expended
34 from the rural downtown revitalization fund of the department of
35 commerce, the director shall award grants to eligible rural communities.

1 (c) Any eligible rural community that desires to receive grant funds in
2 any fiscal year shall develop and submit to the department of commerce a
3 plan detailing the community's proposed use of grant and matching funds
4 and any further requirements imposed by the director consistent with the
5 purpose of this act. Plans shall be submitted at times and upon forms
6 designated by the director.

7 (d) The decision to award funds to any eligible rural community and
8 the amount of any such award shall be within the director's discretion.

9 Sec. 4. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in each
10 fiscal year in which moneys are authorized to be expended from the rural
11 downtown revitalization fund of the department of commerce, the director
12 shall submit a report on the Kansas rural downtown revitalization act's
13 effectiveness to revitalize the downtown areas in rural Kansas towns and
14 improve the quality of life in rural Kansas communities. The report shall
15 be submitted on or before the first day of the regular session of the
16 legislature following the end of such fiscal year to the house of
17 representatives committee on commerce, labor and economic development
18 and the senate committee on commerce.

19 Sec. 5. The provisions of sections 1 through 4, and amendments
20 thereto, shall expire on July 1, 2030.

21 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
22 publication in the statute book.