

Testimony
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SB 329
Senate Committee on Local Government
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The amendments proposed in Senate Bill 329 are designed to allow local governments to exempt historic properties from review under the state preservation statute. The truth is that the current preservation statute allows for the same local controls proposed by the amendment. Under the proposed amendment, cities can opt out of review if they believe that review “will have a detrimental effect on economic development of the city.” In its current form, the preservation statute allows local governments to overturn rulings of the state preservation office if they determine that there are “no feasible and prudent alternatives” to the project.

The amendment proposes that cities that opt out adopt their “own standards to ensure the integrity of historic property.” The current statute allows communities to conduct their own reviews on behalf of the Kansas Historic Preservation Office by adopting local preservation ordinances and establishing local preservation commissions.

The Kansas Preservation Alliance opposes Senate Bill 329 because we believe that the intent of the proposed amendments is already achieved in the current statute.