



NEWS

From the Illinois Senate

State Senator Dave Koehler

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Further information:
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Koehler sponsored bill to ensure fire protection in mobile home parks passes Illinois General Assembly

SPRINGFIELD – A bill sponsored by State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) designed to ensure greater fire safety in mobile home parks around Illinois has passed both houses of the Illinois General Assembly. The legislation is now on its way to the governor for approval.

Senate Bill 2434 requires the owners of mobile home parks to sign an agreement with local fire protection districts to make certain their fire protection needs are met. The agreements would lay out, in writing, whether or not the mobile home park has an adequate hydrant system or another adequate water system to deal with fire emergencies in their mobile home park.

“Fires in mobile homes spread rapidly and often with little or no warning. When they are grouped together in a mobile home park, the chance of a greater tragedy unfolding increases dramatically. This legislation is our attempt to make sure that the owners of mobile home parks have the resources necessary to deal with these emergencies, should they arise. It also makes sure that local fire protection districts know what they are up against should they be called to a fire at a mobile home park,” Senator Koehler said.

Mobile home parks that do not have a private water supply system or hydrants would also have to sign an agreement, approved by the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the municipal fire department or the local fire protection district, to provide an adequate and reliable water supply for fire protection needs. This agreement will be signed and dated by the owner of the mobile home park or his or her designee. A copy of this agreement would be on file at the local fire department or fire protection district and posted in public view at the mobile home park site and available for inspection.

“The protection of residents from fires is a priority of government, both state and local. With this bill, we are urging mobile home park owners to provide the systems necessary to battle fires. We are also ensuring that local fire departments know ahead of time what might be facing them. With this knowledge, they can plan ahead and, hopefully, save many lives as a result,” Senator Koehler said.

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