

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 381

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

SB 381 would amend law concerning the appointment of district coroners to allow a county in a multiple county judicial district to appoint, at the county's expense, a district coroner, regardless of the county's population.

The bill would allow the board of county commissioners in any county that is not the most populous county in the judicial district to appoint a coroner to serve as district coroner for the county. [Note: Current law allows the board of county commissioners of either a single county judicial district or the most populous county in a multi-county judicial district to appoint a district coroner for the judicial district.] The county would pay all expenses for a district coroner appointed pursuant to the bill.

The bill would require the district coroner appointee to be nominated by the local medical society or some other qualified person.

The bill would allow the appointee to be the district coroner for the appointing county and the appointee would also be required to adhere to all statutory duties set forth for a district coroner regarding term of office, qualifications, requirements, and duties provided in continuing law.

The bill would also make technical amendments.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Judiciary at the request of a representative of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Peace Officers Association, and Kansas Sheriffs Association.

Senate Committee on Judiciary

At the Senate Committee hearing on February 14, 2024, a representative of the Kansas Sheriffs Association provided **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would allow less-populated counties that wish to select and benefit from the services of their own coroner the ability to do so at their own cost.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Office of Judicial Administration states that enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on the expenditures or revenues of the Judicial Branch.

The Kansas Association of Counties notes that enactment of the bill would have a fiscal effect on any county that opted to appoint its own district coroner pursuant to provisions of the bill.

District coroner; judicial districts; board of county commissioners