

House Substitute for SENATE BILL No. 18

By Committee on Judiciary

3-22

1 AN ACT concerning churches; relating to disputes involving church
2 congregations.

3

4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) A court shall apply a neutral principles of law analysis
6 to any church property dispute, including, but not limited to:

7 (1) Any property dispute between members of a church congregation
8 arising out of competing claims to church property; and

9 (2) any property dispute arising out of a church congregation's
10 decision to change its denominational affiliation.

11 (b) A neutral principles of law analysis under subsection (a) may
12 include, but not be limited to, examination of a deed, local church charter,
13 state statute or corporate governance documents in the same manner as
14 would be conducted for any other property dispute.

15 (c) As used in this section, "church" includes any church, religious
16 sect or organization established on the basis of a community of faith and
17 belief, and doctrines and practices of a religious character.

18 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
19 publication in the statute book.