

## **District Magistrate Judges—Jurisdiction, Appeals, Procedure; Senate Sub. for HB 2065**

**Senate Sub. for HB 2065** expands the jurisdiction of district magistrate judges by allowing them to conduct felony first appearance hearings and have jurisdiction over uncontested actions for divorce, as well as over any civil action with the consent of the parties. The bill clarifies that district magistrate judges may hear misdemeanor arraignments. Finally, the bill amends various statutes to establish that appeals from district magistrate judges who are regularly admitted to practice law in Kansas shall be directly to the Court of Appeals, rather than to a district judge. Appeals from district magistrate judges who are not regularly admitted to practice law in Kansas will continue to be to a district judge, as under previous law. To facilitate the new appeals process, the bill directs that all actions or proceedings before a district magistrate judge regularly admitted to practice law in Kansas be on the record if such actions or proceedings would be on the record before a district judge.