HOUSE BILL No. 2529

By Representatives Pittman, Awerkamp, Blex, Elliott, Ellis, Eplee, Garber, Good, Highland and Williams

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AN ACT concerning the Kansas family law code; relating to legal custody, residency and parenting time; presumption in court determinations; amending K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 23-3202 and repealing the existing section.

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

Section 1. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 23-3202 is hereby amended to read as follows: 23-3202. (a) If the parties have entered into a parenting plan, it shall be presumed that the agreement is in the best interests of the child. This presumption may be overcome *only by clear and convincing evidence* and the court may make a different order if the court makes specific findings of fact stating why the agreed parenting plan is not in the best interests of the child when considering all relevant factors pursuant to K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 23-3203, and amendments thereto.

- (b) If the parties have not entered into a parenting plan, it shall be presumed that a court determination of legal custody, residency and parenting time providing for a child's equal or approximately equal time with each parent is in the best interests of the child. This presumption may be overcome only by clear and convincing evidence and the court may make a different determination if the court makes specific findings of fact stating why equal or approximately equal time with each parent is not in the best interests of the child when considering all relevant factors pursuant to K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 23-3203, and amendments thereto.
- 24 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 23-3202 is hereby repealed.
- Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.