

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SUSAN HUMPHRIES
99TH DISTRICT

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HB 2075 Proponent Testimony
House Judiciary Committee
January 28, 2020

Dear Chairman Patton and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

This bill will be familiar to our veteran house members. The same language passed out of the House last year 124-1, and died in the Senate at sine die.

Three years ago, the Kansas Judicial Council came before you with a comprehensive review of the Kansas Adoption Statutes, K.S.A. Chapter 59, Article 21. Those changes were passed out of committee, adopted, and signed by the Governor into law in 2018. That revision addressed venue in order to discourage “venue shopping,” or the practice of choosing a judge that might be more sympathetic to the interests of the person filing the petition.

Once adoption attorneys started abiding by the revised adoption statutes, it was discovered that the venue section did not adequately address venue in state (DCF) adoptions. As it stands now, venue is proper in the county where the petitioner (adoptive parent) resides, in the county where the child resided prior to agency custody, or the county where the principal place of business of the agency is located. But, those three venue options do not take into consideration several circumstances when the petitioners are adopting out of the foster care system.

HB 2587 would remedy this omission, and encourage attorneys to continue offering their services in DCF adoptions. I ask you to pass HB 2075 favorably out for passage. Thank you for this opportunity, and I will be happy to answer questions.

Sincerely,
Susan Humphries