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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson Bergquist
Members of the House Committee on Local Government

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: March 20, 2024

Subject: SB 381 – Appointment of district coroners by counties.

Senate Bill No. 381 (SB 381) would amend K.S.A. 22a-226 regarding the appointment of district coroners in each judicial district of the state. The bill authorizes the board of county commissioners of any county that is not the most populous county in a multiple-county judicial district to appoint a coroner to serve as the district coroner for the county at the expense of the county.

Under current law, subsection (b) of the statute provides that the local medical society or societies in each judicial district shall nominate one or more candidates for the office of district coroner and submit the names of such persons to the county commissioners of a single-county judicial district or the county commissioners of the county with the largest population in multiple-county judicial districts. The county commissioners of such county shall appoint a district coroner for the district, and the appointee may be one of the persons nominated or some other qualified person.

SB 381 adds new language to subsection (b) to provide that in a multiple-county judicial district, the board of county commissioners of any county that is not the most populous county may appoint a coroner to serve as the district coroner for the county at the expense of the county. The appointee may be a person nominated by the local medical society or societies or some other qualified person. The appointee shall be the district coroner for the appointing county and all provisions of the section related to the term of office, qualifications, requirements, and duties shall apply to the appointee.

If enacted, SB 381 would take effect on July 1, 2024.