



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

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House Appropriations Committee
Testimony on House Bill No. 2746

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I appear today in support of HB 2746 concerning the Court of Appeals. If enacted, the addition of Judge 14 to the Court of Appeals would be delayed by one year. Legislation that phased-in an expansion of the Court of Appeals from 10 to 14 judges was passed during the 2001 legislative session to begin on January 1, 2003. The full expansion has been delayed a number of times in the past due to budgetary constraints and this bill would delay the addition of the judge until 2014.

The General Government Budget Committee deleted \$349,379 from the Judicial Branch FY 2013 budget request for the statutory addition of the judge. The committee also recommended the introduction of this bill to delay the addition of the Court of Appeals judge by one year. Without the passage of HB 2746, the Judicial Branch would be required to add the judge, without sufficient funding for the additional judgeship. Consequently, without this delay, additional cuts will need to be made in the budget, and those, by necessity, will come from nonjudicial salary expenditures.

Passage of this bill will complete the steps that are necessary to delay the addition of a judge to the Court of Appeals by one year.