

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 520

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

SB 520 establishes the office of the district attorney in the Nineteenth Judicial District in Cowley County. SB 520 provides that the person holding the office of the county attorney on July 1, 2002, shall become the District Attorney of the Nineteenth Judicial District and the office of the county attorney will be abolished on that date.

Beginning with the general election in 2004, and at the general election every four years thereafter, a district attorney shall be elected in the judicial district for a four-year term, commencing on the second Monday in January following the election.

The district attorney is declared by SB 520 to be an executive officer of the Nineteenth Judicial District. The office constitutes a separate entity within the judicial district for administrative purposes. In no event shall the district attorney be deemed an officer of the county.

Background

The bill was supported by the police chiefs of Arkansas City and Winfield, and the Cowley County Sheriff. Proponents said that the increased crime in the county and increased responsibilities require a district attorney who devotes full time to this job and is paid accordingly. The salary of a district attorney is the same as that of a district judge and is paid by the county.

Other judicial districts with district attorneys include Sedgwick, Johnson, Wyandotte, Shawnee, Douglas, and Reno counties.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>

The bill has no impact on the state.