

HOUSE BILL No. 2161

By Committee on Judiciary

1-28

1 AN ACT concerning churches; relating to disputes involving church
2 congregations.

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

5 Section 1. (a) A court shall apply a neutral principles of law analysis
6 to any church property dispute, including, but not limited to:

7 (1) Any property dispute between members of a church congregation
8 arising out of competing claims to church property; and

9 (2) any property dispute arising out of a church congregation's
10 decision to change its denominational affiliation.

11 (b) A neutral principles of law analysis under subsection (a) shall rely
12 on objective, well-established concepts of trust and property law. Such an
13 analysis may include examination of a deed, local church charter, state
14 statute or corporate governance documents in a completely secular
15 manner, as would be conducted for any other property dispute.

16 (c) As used in this section, "church" includes any church, religious
17 sect or organization established on the basis of a community of faith and
18 belief, and doctrines and practices of a religious character.

19 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
20 publication in the statute book.