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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Judiciary

From: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 9, 2021

Subject: Bill Brief on HB 2227

HB 2227 allows the chief justice of the supreme court to suspend certain time limitations during a state of local disaster emergency, suspend verification requirements, permit use of electronic audio-visual communication to resolve cases, and extends the authority to suspend time limitations until June 1, 2022.

The bill amends K.S.A. 20-172. Current law allows the chief justice of the supreme court to suspend time limitations during a state of disaster emergency declared pursuant to K.S.A. 48-924. This bill would give the chief the same authority during a state of local disaster emergency. It would also allow the chief to suspend the verification of an appeal required pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2273 during these disaster emergencies.

Current law allows the chief to issue an order to authorize the use of two-way electronic audio-visual communication in any court proceeding when the chief determines such action is necessary to secure the health and safety of court users, staff and judicial officers. The bill would give the chief the same authority when the chief determines it is necessary to expeditiously resolved pending cases.

Finally, current law provides that this section of law will expire on March 31, 2021. This bill would provide that subsections (a) and (c) would expire on June 30, 2022.