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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 14, 2024
Subject: Bill Brief for SB 381

Senate Bill 381 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.

The bill amends K.S.A. 22a-226, the statute that establishes the office of district coroner in each judicial district of the state. Current law in subsection (b) 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.

The bill 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.

The bill would take effect from and after publication in the statute book, July 1, 2024.