

SENATE BILL No. 381

By Committee on Judiciary

1-23

1 AN ACT concerning coroners; relating to appointment in judicial districts;
2 authorizing the board of county commissioners of any county that is
3 not the most populous county in a multiple-county judicial district to
4 appoint a coroner to serve as the district coroner for the county;
5 amending K.S.A. 22a-226 and repealing the existing section.
6

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

8 Section 1. K.S.A. 22a-226 is hereby amended to read as follows: (a)
9 There is hereby established the office of district coroner in each judicial
10 district of the state. The district coroner shall be a resident of the state of
11 Kansas licensed to practice medicine and surgery by the state board of
12 healing arts or shall be a resident of a military or other federal enclave
13 within the state and shall be duly licensed to practice medicine and surgery
14 within such enclave.

15 (b) (1) The local medical society or societies in each judicial district
16 shall nominate one or more candidates for the office of district coroner and
17 submit the names of the persons ~~so~~ nominated to the *board of* county
18 commissioners of a single-county judicial district or the *board of* county
19 commissioners of the county with the largest population in a multiple-
20 county judicial ~~districts~~ *district* on or before January 1, 1995, and every
21 four years thereafter. The *board of* county commissioners of a single-
22 county judicial district or the *board of* county commissioners of the county
23 with the largest population in a multiple-county judicial ~~districts~~ *district*
24 shall appoint a district coroner for the district. The appointee may be one
25 of the persons nominated or some other qualified person.

26 (2) *In a multiple-county judicial district, the board of county*
27 *commissioners of any county that is not the most populous county may*
28 *appoint a coroner to serve as the district coroner for the county at the*
29 *expense of the county. The appointee may be a person nominated by the*
30 *local medical society or societies or some other qualified person. The*
31 *appointee shall be the district coroner for the appointing county and all*
32 *provisions of this section related to the term of office, qualifications,*
33 *requirements and duties shall apply to the appointee. The provisions of*
34 *K.S.A. 22a-215, 22a-227 through 22a-233, 22a-235 and 22a-236, and*
35 *amendments thereto, shall also apply.*

36 (c) The district coroner shall serve for a term of four years, which

1 term shall begin on the second Monday in January of the year in which
2 such coroner is appointed, and such coroner's compensation shall be as
3 provided by law. Vacancies in the office of district coroner shall be filled
4 in the same manner as appointments for regular terms of district coroner.
5 Such an appointment shall be for the remainder of the regular term and
6 shall be effective from the date the coroner is appointed and is otherwise
7 qualified for the office.

8 (d) The coroner shall, before entering upon the duties of the office,
9 take and subscribe an oath or affirmation that such coroner will faithfully,
10 impartially and to the best of the coroner's skill and ability discharge the
11 duties of district coroner.

12 (e) The district coroner, with the approval of the *board of county*
13 ~~commissioners of a single-county judicial district or the county~~
14 ~~commissioners of the county with the largest population in multiple-~~
15 ~~county judicial districts that appointed such coroner,~~ may appoint one or
16 more deputy coroners; who shall have the qualifications of and shall have
17 the same duties and authority as the district coroner, except that, whenever
18 a district coroner is unable to appoint a qualified deputy, a special deputy
19 coroner who does not possess the requisite qualifications may be
20 appointed for a term not to exceed one year or until a qualified deputy is
21 appointed, whichever occurs first. The district coroner shall have
22 supervisory authority over all deputy coroners. Deputy coroners, before
23 entering upon the discharge of their duties shall take and subscribe an oath
24 or affirmation to faithfully discharge the duties of their office to the same
25 extent and with like effect as the district coroner.

26 (f) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a district coroner from being
27 appointed as district coroner in more than one judicial district.

28 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 22a-226 is hereby repealed.

29 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
30 publication in the statute book.