

SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2065

As Amended by House Committee on Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2065, as amended, would modify law governing name changes during a divorce to allow the court to change a spouse's name to a name other than the spouse's former name at the request of the spouse and to give the court jurisdiction to make such a change at or after the time the decree of divorce becomes final.

[*Note:* Current law allows the court to order the restoration of the spouse's maiden or former name.]

Background

The bill was introduced by Representatives Highberger and Neelly.

[*Note:* A substantially similar bill, 2022 HB 2474 was passed by the House Committee on Judiciary during the 2022 Legislative Session, but died below the line in the House of Representatives.]

House Committee on Judiciary

In the House Committee hearing on January 30, 2023, a Douglas County District Court judge testified as a **proponent**, stating the bill would save personal and judicial resources and provide alternative options for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

*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>

A representative from the Kansas Bar Association provided written-only proponent testimony.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to remove all references in statute to the spouse's "maiden" name.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of the bill would have a negligible fiscal effect on Judiciary Branch operations.

Divorce; name change; former name