



# Kansas Sheriffs' Association

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## **Testimony to House Committee on Local Government Proponent Testimony on SB 381**

March 20, 2024

Chairman Bergquist and Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriffs' Association is providing proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 381.

Currently under K.S.A. 22a-226, the Board of County Commissioners of the most populous county in a Judicial District selects a coroner, who serves all counties within that Judicial District.

The costs associated with the coroner services are borne not only by the county who selects the coroner, but also by those less populated counties within the district.

Throughout our state, only seven counties are single-county judicial districts. The remaining juridical districts range from two to seven counties.

The passage of Senate Bill 381 would not change the qualifications, duties, or term of office, nor would it require less populated counties who are satisfied with the current process to do anything different.

However, passage of Senate Bill 381 would allow less populated counties who wish to select and benefit from the services of their own coroner, the ability to do so at their own cost.

By empowering Boards of County Commissioners to select their own coroner they then have a better ability to serve the citizens of their respective counties by ensuring the most qualified person is appointed and provides them an avenue of accountability should the services being provided not meet the community needs and professional expectations.

The Kansas Sheriffs' Association supports the proposed changes to K.S.A. 22a-226 under Senate Bill 381 because it allows counties who wish to do so, to bring the important position of coroner to the most local form of government.

On behalf of the Kansas Sheriffs' Association thank you for taking the time to allow us to present our testimony for your consideration.

Sheriff David M. Groves