

SESSION OF 2012

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 423**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Judiciary

**Brief\***

SB 423, as amended, would give the Kansas Supreme Court the authority to allocate all judicial resources, including the assignment of district judges and district magistrate judges, to judicial districts and to the county or counties in which each judge shall serve and in which each shall maintain an office. However, if a judicial district has been assigned a total number of district judges and district magistrate judges equal to or greater than the number of counties in the judicial district, then at least one district judge or district magistrate judge would be required to be a resident of each county in the district.

In accordance with this grant of authority, judicial district statutes would be amended to remove specific allocations of judges to each district and to counties within districts.

**Background**

SB 423 was introduced by the Senate Judiciary Committee at the request of the Kansas Supreme Court. In the Senate Judiciary Committee, representatives of the Judicial Branch's Blue Ribbon Commission and the Kansas District Judges Association spoke in favor of the bill, explaining the Commission recommended this change in the law so that judicial resources could be more efficiently allocated. Representatives of the Kansas District Magistrate Judges Association and the Kansas Legislative Policy Group testified in opposition to the bill, as did a Topeka attorney.

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\*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>

The Committee amended the bill to retain provisions requiring court to be held in certain cities and to add the provision regarding residency of judges in districts with at least one judge per county. The Committee recommended the bill be passed as amended.

The fiscal note on the bill indicates it would not result in additional expenditures or revenues for the Judicial Branch, but would allow the Supreme Court to make better use of its current resources.