

HOUSE BILL No. 2227

By Committee on Judiciary

2-3

1 AN ACT concerning courts; relating to orders issued by the chief justice to
2 secure health and safety during a disaster emergency; suspension of
3 deadlines or time limitations; authorizing suspension during a state of
4 local disaster emergency; suspension of verification requirements under
5 the revised Kansas code for the care of children; use of electronic
6 audio-visual communication to expeditiously resolve pending cases;
7 amending K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 20-172 and repealing the existing section.
8

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

10 Section 1. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 20-172 is hereby amended to read as
11 follows: 20-172. (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, during
12 any state of disaster emergency pursuant to K.S.A. 48-924, and
13 amendments thereto, *or any state of local disaster emergency established*
14 *by K.S.A. 48-932, and amendments thereto*, the chief justice of the Kansas
15 supreme court may issue an order to extend or suspend any deadlines or
16 time limitations established by statute *or suspend the verification required*
17 *pursuant to K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 38-2273, and amendments thereto*, when
18 the chief justice determines such action is necessary to secure the health
19 and safety of court users, staff and judicial officers.

20 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the chief justice of
21 the Kansas supreme court may issue an order to authorize the use of two-
22 way electronic audio-visual communication in any court proceeding when
23 the chief justice determines such action is necessary to:

24 (1) Secure the health and safety of court users, staff and judicial
25 officers; *or*

26 (2) *expeditiously resolve pending cases.*

27 (c) Any order issued pursuant to subsection (a) may remain in effect
28 for up to 150 days after ~~a~~ *the applicable* state of disaster emergency is
29 terminated pursuant to K.S.A. 48-924, and amendments thereto, *or state of*
30 *local disaster emergency is terminated pursuant to K.S.A. 48-932, and*
31 *amendments thereto*. Any order in violation of this section shall be void.

32 (d) The provisions of ~~this section~~ *subsections (a) and (c)* shall expire
33 ~~on March 31, 2021~~ *June 30, 2022*.

34 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 20-172 is hereby repealed.

35 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
36 publication in the Kansas register.