

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2021

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) **(1) For a deadline or time limitation that was extended or**  
33 **suspended because of an order issued pursuant to subsection (a), on**  
34 **the date such order terminates, a person shall have the same number**  
35 **of days to comply with the deadline or time limitation as the person**  
36 **had when the deadline or time limitation was extended or suspended;**

1 **and**

2 **(2) for a deadline or time limitation that did not begin to run**  
3 **because of an order issued pursuant to subsection (a), on the date such**  
4 **order terminates, a person shall have the full period provided by law**  
5 **to comply with the deadline or time limitation.**

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

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 K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 20-172 is hereby repealed.

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