

## **Appointment of Court of Appeals Judges; HB 2019**

**HB 2019** amends the current procedure for the appointment of Court of Appeals Judges to allow the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, to appoint a qualified person to fill any vacancy on the Kansas Court of Appeals. The bill requires the Clerk of the Supreme Court to give prompt notice of a vacancy to the Governor, who must then make an appointment within 60 days. Otherwise, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, with the consent of the Senate, will appoint a qualified person for the position.

The bill requires the Senate to vote to consent to the appointment within 60 days of being received or, if the Senate is not in session and will not be in session within the 60-day time limit, within 20 days of the next session. If the Senate fails to vote within the time limit, its consent will be deemed given. If the appointee does not receive a majority vote in the Senate, the Governor will appoint another qualified person within 60 days, and the same consent procedure will be followed.

The bill also strikes language that makes the 14<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals position subject to appropriations.