

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2065**

As Agreed to April 4, 2023

**Brief\***

HB 2065 would modify law governing name changes during a divorce to allow the court to change a spouse's name to a name other than the spouse's former name at the request of the spouse and to give the court jurisdiction to make such a change at or after the time the decree of divorce becomes final.

[*Note:* Current law allows the court to order the restoration of the spouse's maiden or former name.]

**Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to the version of the bill as passed by the House, reverting the effective date to upon publication in the statute book.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by Representatives Highberger and Neelly.

[*Note:* A substantially similar bill, 2022 HB 2474, was passed by the House Committee on Judiciary during the 2022 Legislative Session, but died below the line in the House of Representatives.]

***House Committee on Judiciary***

In the House Committee hearing on January 30, 2023, a Douglas County District Court judge testified as a **proponent**, stating the bill would save personal and judicial resources and provide alternative options for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. A representative from the Kansas Bar Association provided written-only proponent testimony. No other testimony was provided.

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

The House Committee amended the bill to remove all references in statute to the spouse's "maiden" name. [Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.]

### ***Senate Committee on Judiciary***

In the Senate Committee hearing on March 7, 2023, written-only **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Bar Association. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make it effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.]

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of the bill would have a negligible fiscal effect on Judiciary Branch operations.

Divorce; name change; former name

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