

**STATE OF KANSAS
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**MARC RHOADES
APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN**

HB2121

Thank you, Chairman Kinzer and committee members, for inviting me to present the history behind the introduction of HB2121.

HB 2121 was introduced in the 2011 session after the Harvey County coroner approached me with a situation in which a death took place within his jurisdiction which he believed might have involved foul play. Because the current statute does not contain language requiring sign-off by the coroner of the jurisdiction in which a death takes place before transport and subsequent cremation or burial can take place, it is uncertain on this point, and this particular body was transported to another jurisdiction and cremated before a thorough investigation had taken place, eliminating any opportunity for further investigation into the circumstances of the death.

HB2121 amends K.S.A. 65-2426a to prevent this situation from occurring in the future by requiring the coroner with jurisdiction in the location of the death to give written approval to the transport of a body to another jurisdiction. When approval has been given for transport, permission to bury or cremate the body will rest with the jurisdiction to which it has been transported.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am willing to stand for questions.