

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

[P E R F E C T E D]

SENATE BILL NO. 621

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR DIXON.

Pre-filed December 9, 2013, and ordered printed.

Read 2nd time January 23, 2014, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence.

Reported from the Committee February 13, 2014, with recommendation that the bill do pass and be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Taken up February 20, 2014. Read 3rd time and placed upon its final passage; bill passed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4246S.03P

AN ACT

To repeal sections 476.001, 476.320, 476.330, and 476.340, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to the administration of justice.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 476.001, 476.320, 476.330, and 476.340, RSMo, are
2 repealed and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections
3 476.001, 476.320, 476.330, and 476.340, to read as follows:

476.001. An efficient, well operating and productive judiciary is essential
2 to the preservation of the people's liberty and prosperity. In order to achieve this
3 goal, the general assembly and the supreme court must constantly be aware of
4 the operations, needs, strengths and weaknesses of the judicial system. It is the
5 purpose of sections 476.001, **476.055, 476.330 to 476.380**, 476.412, [476.415]
6 **477.405**, and 476.681 to provide the general assembly and the supreme court
7 with the mechanisms to obtain on a continuing basis a comprehensive analysis
8 of judicial resources and an efficient and organized method of identifying the
9 problems and needs as they occur. It is the further purpose of sections 476.001,
10 **476.055, 476.330 to 476.380**, 476.412, [476.415 and] 476.681, **477.405, 478.073,**
11 **478.320, and subdivision (12) of subsection 1 of section 600.042** to provide
12 a system for the efficient allocation of available personnel, facilities and resources
13 to achieve a uniform and effective operation of the judicial system.

476.320. There is hereby established "The Judicial Conference of the State
2 of Missouri". The conference shall consist of the judges [and commissioners] of

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

3 the supreme court and of the court of appeals, the circuit judges, associate circuit
4 judges, family court commissioners, the commissioners of the juvenile division of
5 the circuit courts, and all judges and commissioners who have retired under any
6 of the provisions of sections 476.450 to 476.595 heretofore or hereafter in
7 effect. The chief justice of the supreme court, or in his absence the vice president
8 elected by the executive council, shall be the presiding officer.

476.330. The conference shall meet on the call of the chief justice. A
2 meeting shall be called at least once [a] **every odd-numbered** year at some
3 convenient time and place in the state. It shall be the duty of all members of the
4 conference to attend such [annual] meeting.

476.340. 1. The governing body of the conference, between [annual]
2 sessions, shall be the executive council. The executive council shall consist of the
3 following members:

4 (1) The chief justice of the supreme court, or some member of the supreme
5 court appointed by him;

6 (2) Two other members of the supreme court appointed by the supreme
7 court;

8 (3) One member of each district of the court of appeals elected by the
9 judges thereof, respectively;

10 (4) Eight circuit judges, other than judges of the probate division, three
11 of whom shall be elected for three-year terms, one from each district of the court
12 of appeals, by the circuit judges, other than judges of the probate division, of the
13 district to represent each of the districts of the court of appeals, respectively. A
14 judge whose circuit is in part in more than one district of the court of appeals
15 may vote in and be elected to represent either district but not both. Five of the
16 circuit judges on the council shall be elected for three-year terms by the circuit
17 judges of the state;

18 (5) One judge of the probate division of circuit courts in counties having
19 a population of more than thirty thousand inhabitants elected for a three-year
20 term by the judges of the probate divisions of the circuit courts in such counties;

21 (6) Three associate circuit judges elected for three-year terms, one from
22 each district of the court of appeals, by the associate circuit judges of the district
23 to represent each of the districts of the court of appeals, respectively;

24 (7) Three other associate circuit judges elected for three-year terms by the
25 associate circuit judges of the state;

26 (8) One associate circuit judge from counties having a population of thirty

27 thousand inhabitants or less elected for a three-year term by the associate circuit
28 judges in such counties;

29 (9) One retired judge or commissioner who is a member of the judicial
30 conference elected for a three-year term by such judges and commissioners.

31 Members of the executive council on August 28, 2003, shall serve out their terms
32 and their replacements shall be elected under the provisions of this
33 section. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of any member as
34 provided by resolution of the judicial conference.

35 2. The executive council shall have general supervision of the work of the
36 conference and such other duties and authority as may be given to it under rules
37 or resolutions adopted by the conference. The members of the executive council
38 shall elect one of its members vice president to act in the absence of the chief
39 justice.

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Bill

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