

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 114

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HUDSON.

6827S.01I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri, an amendment repealing sections 19, 25(a), and 25(d) of article V of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting three new sections in lieu thereof relating to judges.

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the
2 state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday
3 in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by
4 the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to
5 the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or
6 rejection, the following amendment to article V of the
7 Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Sections 19, 25(a), and 25(d), article V, of the
2 Constitution of Missouri, are repealed and three new sections
3 adopted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 19, 25(a), and
4 25(d), to read as follows:

Section 19. 1. Judges of the supreme court and of the
2 court of appeals shall [be selected] **serve** for terms of
3 [twelve] **seven** years[,] **and** judges of the circuit courts for
4 terms of six years, and associate circuit judges for terms
5 of four years.

6 2. Each judge of the supreme court and of the court of
7 appeals in office as of, or with a term starting on, January
8 1, 2027, shall hold office for the remainder of his or her

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

9 **term after which the office shall be vacated subject to**
10 **appointment under this article.**

1 **Section 25(a). Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the**
2 **office of judge of the supreme court or the court of**
3 **appeals, the governor, by and with the advice and consent of**
4 **the senate, shall appoint one person possessing the**
5 **qualifications for such office to fill such vacancy.**

6 Whenever a vacancy shall occur [in the office of judge of
7 any of the following courts of this state, to wit: The
8 supreme court, the court of appeals, or] in the office of
9 circuit or associate circuit judge within the city of St.
10 Louis and Jackson county, the governor shall fill such
11 vacancy by appointing one of three persons possessing the
12 qualifications for such office, who shall be nominated and
13 whose names shall be submitted to the governor by a
14 nonpartisan judicial commission established and organized as
15 hereinafter provided. If the governor fails to appoint any
16 of the nominees within sixty days after the list of nominees
17 is submitted, the nonpartisan judicial commission making the
18 nomination shall appoint one of the nominees to fill the
19 vacancy.

1 **Section 25(d). Nonpartisan judicial commissions whose**
2 **duty it shall be to nominate and submit to the governor**
3 **names of persons for appointment as provided by sections**
4 **25(a)-(g) are hereby established and shall be organized on**
5 **the following basis: [For vacancies in the office of judge**
6 **of the supreme court or of the court of appeals, there shall**
7 **be one such commission, to be known as "The Appellate**
8 **Judicial Commission";] For vacancies in the office of**
9 **circuit judge or associate circuit judge of any circuit**
10 **court subject to the provisions of sections 25(a)-(g) there**
11 **shall be one such commission, to be known as "The _____**

12 Circuit Judicial Commission", for each judicial circuit
13 which shall be subject to the provisions of sections 25(a)-
14 (g) [; the appellate judicial commission shall consist of a
15 judge of the supreme court selected by the members of the
16 supreme court, and the remaining members shall be chosen in
17 the following manner: The members of the bar of this state
18 residing in each court of appeals district shall elect one
19 of their number to serve as a member of said commission, and
20 the governor shall appoint one citizen, not a member of the
21 bar, from among the residents of each court of appeals
22 district, to serve as a member of said commission, and the
23 members of the commission shall select one of their number
24 to serve as chairman]. Each circuit judicial commission
25 shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be the
26 chief judge of the district of the court of appeals within
27 which the judicial circuit of such commission, or the major
28 portion of the population of said circuit is situated and
29 the remaining four members shall be chosen in the following
30 manner: The members of the bar of this state residing in the
31 judicial circuit of such commission shall elect two of their
32 number to serve as members of said commission, and the
33 governor shall appoint two citizens, not members of the bar,
34 from among the residents of said judicial circuit to serve
35 as members of said commission, the members of the commission
36 shall select one of their number to serve as chairman; and
37 the terms of office of the members of such commission shall
38 be fixed by law, but no law shall increase or diminish the
39 term of any member then in office. No member of any such
40 commission other than a judge shall hold any public office,
41 and no member shall hold any official position in a
42 political party. Every such commission may act only by the
43 concurrence of a majority of its members. The members of

44 such commission shall receive no salary or other
45 compensation for their services but they shall receive their
46 necessary traveling and other expenses incurred while
47 actually engaged in the discharge of their official duties.
48 All such commissions shall be administered, and all
49 elections provided for under this section shall be held and
50 regulated, under such rules as the supreme court shall
51 promulgate.

Section B. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other
2 applicable constitutional provisions and laws of this state
3 allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for
4 the submission of this joint resolution to the voters of
5 this state, the official summary statement of this
6 resolution shall be as follows:

7 "Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to
8 provide for appointment by the Governor, with
9 the advice and consent of the Missouri Senate,
10 of judges of the Supreme Court and of the Court
11 of Appeals and to modify the length of the term
12 of office of such judges to seven years?".

✓