

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-114—HB 7041

Judiciary Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE JUDICIAL
SELECTION COMMISSION AND DECISIONS RENDERED BY SAID
COMMISSION**

SUMMARY: This act changes the composition of the 12-member Judicial Selection Commission, beginning with appointments made on or after July 1, 2025. Under prior law, the commission consisted of six attorneys and six non-attorneys. Under the act, it is comprised of eight attorneys, who each have engaged in the practice of law in Connecticut for at least 10 years, and four non-attorneys.

The act also makes the following three changes to the commission's operations:

1. increases, from two to three years, the time a commission member who is an attorney has to wait after ending his or her commission tenure before being considered for a judicial nomination;
2. requires the commission, at the request of a candidate or judge, to include in a decision denying a recommendation for judicial nomination a brief summary of the reasons for the denial; and
3. requires the commission, in its annual report to the Judiciary Committee, to include statistics on the areas of professional experience for individuals on the list of qualified candidates and for those who were interviewed, recommended, and denied recommendation.

Lastly, it makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The act's revised requirements for commission members apply to appointments made on or after July 1, 2025. The table below shows the appointments under prior law and the act, including the applicable appointing authorities and specified qualifications.

Commission Appointees

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Until June 30, 2025, Under Prior Law</i>	<i>Appointments on or After July 1, 2025, Under the Act</i>
Governor	Six members: One from each congressional district and one at-large as follows: Three attorneys and three non- attorneys	Six members: One from each congressional district and one at-large as follows: Three attorneys who have engaged in the practice of law in Connecticut for at least 10 years and three non-attorneys

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<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Until June 30, 2025, Under Prior Law</i>	<i>Appointments on or After July 1, 2025, Under the Act</i>
Senate majority leader	One non-attorney	One non-attorney
Senate president pro tempore	One attorney	For each, one attorney who has engaged in the practice of law in Connecticut for at least 10 years
Senate minority leader	One non-attorney	
House speaker	One non-attorney	
House majority leader	One attorney	
House minority leader	One attorney	

As under existing law, no more than six of the members may belong to the same political party, and none may otherwise be an elected or appointed state official or hold statewide office in a political party. Members must serve (1) a three-year term and (2) until a successor is appointed and qualified, but no later than 90 days after their term ends. They must select a chairperson from among the governor's appointees, which prior law also required.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT CANDIDACY

By law, the commission maintains a list of qualified candidates, including judges seeking appointment to a different court, for the governor's consideration for nomination as a judge in the state's Superior, Appellate, and Supreme courts. Candidates are placed on the list after an evaluation of their qualifications.

Under prior law, a commission member who was an attorney could not be considered for a recommendation to the governor during the member's tenure or for two years following. The act increases this period to three years after the end of the member's commission tenure.

Additionally, if the commission issues a decision informing a candidate that he or she will not be considered for nomination as a judge or informing an incumbent judge that he or she will not be considered for appointment to a different court, the act allows the candidate or judge to request a brief summary of the reasons supporting the decision. The commission must determine the form and manner of the summary.