

Senator D. Chris Buttars proposes the following substitute bill:

**JUDICIAL SELECTION PROCEDURES AND  
RETENTION ELECTION TASK FORCE**

2007 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: D. Chris Buttars**

House Sponsor: Curtis Oda

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates the Judicial Retention Election Task Force.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ designates four members of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate;
- ▶ designates seven members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House; and
- ▶ designates three judges appointed by the president of the Senate and speaker of the House, in consultation with the Utah Judicial Council;
- ▶ authorizes a task force to review and make recommendations to the Judicial Council and the Legislature on issues related to the judicial selection procedures, the manner of judicial retention elections, and the information provided to the public regarding a judge's judicial performance.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates:

- ▶ \$8,120 to the Senate; and
- ▶ \$14,210 to the House of Representatives.



26 **Other Special Clauses:**

27 This bill is repealed on November 30, 2007.

28 **Uncodified Material Affected:**

29 ENACTS UNCODIFIED MATERIAL



31 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

32 Section 1. **Judicial Retention Election Task Force -- Creation -- Membership --**  
33 **Interim rules followed -- Compensation -- Staff.**

34 (1) There is created the Judicial Retention Election Task Force consisting of the  
35 following 14 members:

36 (a) four members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate, no more than  
37 three of whom may be from the same political party;

38 (b) seven members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the  
39 House of Representatives, no more than five of whom may be from the same political party;

40 (c) three judges, each from a different court, appointed by the president of the Senate  
41 and speaker of the House, in consultation with the Utah Judicial Council.

42 (2) (a) The president of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate appointed  
43 under Subsection (1)(a) as a cochair of the task force.

44 (b) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House  
45 of Representatives appointed under Subsection (1)(b) as a cochair of the task force.

46 (3) In conducting its business, the task force shall comply with the rules of legislative  
47 interim committees.

48 (4) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force shall be paid in accordance  
49 with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rule 15.03.

50 (5) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support  
51 to the task force.

52 Section 2. **Duties -- Interim report.**

53 (1) The task force shall review and make recommendations to the Judicial Council and  
54 the Legislature on the following issues:

55 (a) judicial selection procedures;

56 (b) the value of the formal judicial evaluation program established by rule of the

57 Judicial Council pursuant to Section 78-3-21, in providing the public with sufficient  
58 information to make an accurate assessment of a judge's performance; and

59 (c) an evaluation of and potential changes to:

60 (i) the questions on the attorneys' surveys for appellate and trial court judges;

61 (ii) selection methods of attorney respondents for judicial performance surveys; and

62 (iii) the certification process of judges to stand for a retention election.

63 (2) The task force may study and make recommendations upon any other issue related  
64 to judicial selection procedures, the manner of judicial retention elections, and the information  
65 provided to the public regarding a judge's judicial performance.

66 (3) A final report, including any proposed legislation shall be presented to the Judiciary  
67 Interim Committee before November 30, 2007.

68 **Section 3. Appropriation.**

69 There is appropriated from the General Fund for fiscal year 2007 only:

70 (1) \$8,120 to the Senate to pay for the compensation and expenses of senators on the  
71 task force; and

72 (2) \$14,210 to the House of Representatives to pay for the compensation and expenses  
73 of representatives on the task force.

74 **Section 4. Repeal date.**

75 This bill is repealed on November 30, 2007.

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**Fiscal Note**

**S.B. 221 2nd Sub. (Salmon) - Judicial Selection Procedures and Retention  
Election Task Force  
2007 General Session  
State of Utah**

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will appropriate \$22,330 from one-time General Fund revenues for FY 2007. These funds will be distributed \$8,120 to the Senate and \$14,210 to the House of Representatives.

	<u>FY 2007 Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2008 Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2009 Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2007 Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2008 Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2009 Revenue</u>
General Fund, One-Time	\$22,330	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,330</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.