

Senator Kirk A. Cullimore proposes the following substitute bill:

JUDICIARY AMENDMENTS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Kirk A. Cullimore

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to the judiciary.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides a repeal date for Title 78A, Chapter 10, Judicial Selection Act;
- ▶ defines terms related to judicial nominating commissions;
- ▶ addresses the selection, appointment, and confirmation of judges to the appellate, district, and juvenile courts of this state;
- ▶ addresses partisan political consideration in regard to the selection, appointment, and confirmation of judges;
- ▶ clarifies the transition process in regard to the creation of new judicial nominating commissions;
- ▶ allows the State Criminal and Juvenile Justice Commission to make rules for judicial nominating commissions;
- ▶ clarifies the process and timeline for the selection, appointment, and confirmation of judges to the appellate, district, and juvenile courts of this state;
- ▶ addresses the procedures, meetings, and certification process for judicial nominating commissions;



- 26 ▶ addresses the process for the appointment of a judge by the governor;
- 27 ▶ amends provisions regarding the Senate confirmation process;
- 28 ▶ creates the Appellate Court Nominating Commission;
- 29 ▶ provides the purpose and membership of the Appellate Court Nominating
- 30 Commission;
- 31 ▶ addresses the appointment, vacancy, or removal of commissioners on the Appellate
- 32 Court Nominating Commission;
- 33 ▶ addresses procedures and expenses for the Appellate Court Nominating
- 34 Commission;
- 35 ▶ creates a district and juvenile court nominating commission for each geographical
- 36 division of the district and juvenile courts;
- 37 ▶ provides the purpose and membership of a district and juvenile court nominating
- 38 commission;
- 39 ▶ addresses the appointment, vacancy, or removal of commissioners on a district and
- 40 juvenile court nominating commission;
- 41 ▶ addresses procedures and expenses for a district and juvenile court nominating
- 42 commission; and
- 43 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

44 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

45 None

46 Other Special Clauses:

47 This bill provides coordination clauses.

48 Utah Code Sections Affected:

49 AMENDS:

50 **53B-1-501**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 365 and last amended by
51 Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 365

52 **63I-2-278**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 470

53 **67-1-1.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 394

54 **67-1-2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 352, 373 and last amended by
55 Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 352, 365 and 373

56 **78A-10-102**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

57 **78A-10-104**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 134 and last amended by
58 Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 134

59 ENACTS:

- 60 **78A-10a-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 61 **78A-10a-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 62 **78A-10a-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63 **78A-10a-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 64 **78A-10a-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 65 **78A-10a-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 66 **78A-10a-204**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 67 **78A-10a-301**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 68 **78A-10a-302**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 69 **78A-10a-303**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 70 **78A-10a-304**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 71 **78A-10a-305**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 72 **78A-10a-401**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 73 **78A-10a-402**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 74 **78A-10a-403**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 75 **78A-10a-404**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 76 **78A-10a-405**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

77

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

79 Section 1. Section **53B-1-501** is amended to read:

80 **53B-1-501. Establishment of initial board membership.**

81 (1) (a) The governor shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate,
82 individuals to the board, to ensure that beginning July 1, 2020, the board consists of 18
83 members, including:

84 (i) at least six individuals who were members of the State Board of Regents on May
85 12, 2020;

86 (ii) at least six individuals who were members of the Utah System of Technical
87 Colleges Board of Trustees on May 12, 2020; and

88 (iii) two student members appointed to the board in accordance with Section
89 [53B-1-404](#).

90 (b) Before making an appointment described in Subsection (1)(a), the governor shall
91 consult:

92 (i) for an appointment described in Subsection (1)(a)(i), with State Board of Regents
93 leadership; and

94 (ii) for an appointment described in Subsection (1)(a)(ii), with Utah System of
95 Technical Colleges Board of Trustees leadership.

96 (2) (a) Except for an appointment described in Subsection (1)(a)(iii), the governor shall
97 appoint an individual to a two-year, four-year, or six-year term to ensure that one-third of the
98 members complete the members' terms on June 30 of each even number year.

99 (b) The governor may appoint an individual described in Subsection (1)(a) to a second
100 term without the individual being considered by the nominating committee described in
101 Section [53B-1-406](#) if, at the time of the individual's initial appointment to the board, the
102 individual:

103 (i) is serving the individual's first full term on the State Board of Regents or the Utah
104 System of Technical Colleges Board of Trustees; or

105 (ii) is not a member of the State Board of Regents or the Utah System of Technical
106 Colleges Board of Trustees.

107 (c) An appointment described in Subsection (2)(b) is for a six-year term.

108 (3) Following the appointments described in this section, a vacancy on the board shall
109 be filled in accordance with Section [53B-1-404](#).

110 (4) Notwithstanding Section [67-1-2](#), for an appointment described in this section:

111 (a) a majority of the president of the Senate, the Senate majority leader, and the Senate
112 minority leader may waive the 30-day requirement described in Subsection [~~[67-1-2\(1\)](#)~~]
113 [67-1-2\(2\)](#); and

114 (b) the Senate is not required to hold a confirmation hearing.

115 Section 2. Section **63I-2-278** is amended to read:

116 **63I-2-278. Repeal dates: Title 78A and Title 78B.**

117 (1) Title 78A, Chapter 10, Judicial Selection Act, is repealed on July 1, 2023.

118 (2) If Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 22, Cause of Action to Protect Minors from Unfiltered

119 Devices, is not in effect before January 1, 2031, Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 22, Cause of Action
120 to Protect Minors from Unfiltered Devices, is repealed January 1, 2031.

121 [~~2~~] (3) Sections 78B-12-301 and 78B-12-302 are repealed on January 1, 2025.

122 Section 3. Section 67-1-1.5 is amended to read:

123 **67-1-1.5. Gubernatorial appointment powers.**

124 (1) As used in this section:

125 (a) "Board member" means each gubernatorial appointee to any state board, committee,
126 commission, council, or authority.

127 (b) "Executive branch management position" includes department executive directors,
128 division directors, and any other administrative position in state government where the person
129 filling the position:

130 (i) works full-time performing managerial and administrative functions;

131 (ii) is appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

132 (c) (i) "Executive branch policy position" means any person other than a person filling
133 an executive branch management position, who is appointed by the governor with the advice
134 and consent of the Senate.

135 (ii) "Executive branch policy position" includes each member of any state board and
136 commission appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

137 (2) (a) Whenever a vacancy occurs in any executive branch policy position or in any
138 executive branch management position, the governor shall submit the name of a nominee to the
139 Senate for advice and consent no later than three months after the day on which the vacancy
140 occurs.

141 (b) If the Senate fails to consent to that person within 90 days after the day on which
142 the governor submits the nominee's name to the Senate for consent:

143 (i) the nomination is considered rejected; and

144 (ii) the governor shall resubmit the name of the nominee described in Subsection (2)(a)
145 or submit the name of a different nominee to the Senate for consent no later than 60 days after
146 the date on which the nomination was rejected by the Senate.

147 (3) Whenever a vacancy occurs in any executive branch management position, the
148 governor may either:

149 (a) appoint an interim manager who meets the qualifications of the vacant position to

150 exercise the powers and duties of the vacant position for three months, pending consent of a
151 person to permanently fill that position by the Senate; or

152 (b) appoint an interim manager who does not meet the qualifications of the vacant
153 position and submit that person's name to the Senate for consent as interim manager within one
154 month of the appointment.

155 (4) Except for an interim manager appointed to a position described in Subsection
156 ~~[67-1-2(3)(b)(i) through (vii)]~~ 67-1-2(2)(a), if the Senate fails to consent to the interim manager
157 appointed under Subsection (3)(b) within 30 days after the day on which the governor submits
158 the nominee's name to the Senate for consent:

159 (a) the nomination is considered rejected; and

160 (b) the governor may:

161 (i) (A) reappoint the interim manager to whom the Senate failed to consent within 30
162 days; and

163 (B) resubmit the name of the person described in Subsection (4)(b)(i)(A) to the Senate
164 for consent as interim manager; or

165 (ii) appoint a different interim manager under Subsection (3).

166 (5) For an interim manager appointed to a position described in Subsection
167 ~~[67-1-2(3)(b)(i) through (vii)]~~ 67-1-2(2)(a), if the Senate fails to consent to the interim manager
168 appointed under Subsection (3)(b) within 60 days after the day on which the governor submits
169 the nominee's name to the Senate for consent:

170 (a) the nomination is considered rejected; and

171 (b) the governor may:

172 (i) (A) reappoint the interim manager to whom the Senate failed to consent; and

173 (B) resubmit the name of the person described in Subsection (5)(b)(i)(A) to the Senate
174 for consent as interim manager; or

175 (ii) appoint a different interim manager under Subsection (3).

176 (6) If, after an interim manager has served three months, no one has been appointed
177 and received Senate consent to permanently fill the position, the governor shall:

178 (a) appoint a new interim manager who meets the qualifications of the vacant position
179 to exercise the powers and duties of the vacant position for three months; or

180 (b) submit the name of the first interim manager to the Senate for consent as an interim

181 manager for a three-month term.

182 (7) If the Senate fails to consent to a nominee whose name is submitted under
183 Subsection (6)(b) within 30 days after the day on which the governor submits the name to the
184 Senate:

185 (a) the nomination is considered rejected; and

186 (b) the governor shall:

187 (i) (A) reappoint the person described in Subsection (6)(b); and

188 (B) resubmit the name of the person described in Subsection (6)(b) to the Senate for
189 consent as interim manager; or

190 (ii) appoint a different interim manager in the manner required by Subsection (3).

191 (8) The governor may not make a temporary appointment to fill a vacant executive
192 branch policy position.

193 (9) (a) Before appointing any person to serve as a board member, the governor shall
194 ask the person whether the person wishes to receive per diem, expenses, or both for serving as
195 a board member.

196 (b) If the person declines to receive per diem, expenses, or both, the governor shall
197 notify the agency administering the board, commission, committee, council, or authority and
198 direct the agency to implement the board member's request.

199 (10) A gubernatorial nomination upon which the Senate has not acted to give consent
200 or refuse to give consent is void when a vacancy in the office of governor occurs.

201 Section 4. Section **67-1-2** is amended to read:

202 **67-1-2. Senate confirmation of gubernatorial nominees -- Verification of**
203 **nomination requirements -- Consultation on appointments -- Notification of anticipated**
204 **vacancies.**

205 ~~[(1) Until October 1, 2020, unless waived by a majority of the president of the Senate,~~
206 ~~the Senate majority leader, and the Senate minority leader, 15 days before any Senate session to~~
207 ~~confirm any gubernatorial nominee, except a judicial appointment, the governor shall send to~~
208 ~~each member of the Senate and to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel:]~~

209 ~~[(a) a list of each nominee for an office or position made by the governor in accordance~~
210 ~~with the Utah Constitution and state law; and]~~

211 ~~[(b) any information that may support or provide biographical information about the~~

212 ~~nominee, including resumes and curriculum vitae.]~~

213 ~~[(2)] (1) (a)~~ Except as provided in Subsection (3), ~~[beginning October 1, 2020,]~~ at least
214 30 days before the day of an extraordinary session of the Senate to confirm a gubernatorial
215 nominee, the governor shall send to each member of the Senate and to the Office of Legislative
216 Research and General Counsel the following information for each nominee:

217 ~~[(a)] (i)~~ the nominee's name and biographical information, including a resume and
218 curriculum vitae with personal contact information, including home address, email address, and
219 telephone number, redacted, except that the governor shall send to the Office of Legislative
220 Research and General Counsel the contact information for the nominee;

221 ~~[(b)] (ii)~~ a detailed list, with citations, of the legal requirements for the appointed
222 position;

223 ~~[(c)] (iii)~~ a detailed list with supporting documents explaining how, and verifying that,
224 the nominee meets each statutory and constitutional requirement for the appointed position;

225 ~~[(d)] (iv)~~ a written certification by the governor that the nominee satisfies all
226 requirements for the appointment; and

227 ~~[(e)] (v)~~ public comment information collected in accordance with Section
228 [63G-24-204](#).

229 (b) This Subsection (1) does not apply to a judicial appointee.

230 ~~[(3) (a) Subsection (2) does not apply to a judicial nominee.]~~

231 ~~[(b) Beginning October 1, 2020, a]~~

232 (2) (a) A majority of the president of the Senate, the Senate majority leader, and the
233 Senate minority leader may waive the 30-day requirement described in Subsection ~~[(2)] (1)~~ for
234 a gubernatorial nominee other than a nominee for the following:

235 (i) the executive director of a department;

236 (ii) the executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;

237 (iii) the executive director of the Labor Commission;

238 (iv) a member of the State Tax Commission;

239 (v) a member of the State Board of Education;

240 (vi) a member of the Utah Board of Higher Education; or

241 (vii) an individual:

242 (A) whose appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate; and

243 (B) whom the governor designates as a member of the governor's cabinet.
 244 [~~(4) Beginning October 1, 2020, the~~]
 245 (b) The Senate shall hold a confirmation hearing for a nominee for an individual
 246 described in Subsection [~~(3)(b)(i) through (vii)~~] (2)(a).
 247 [~~(5) Beginning on October 1, 2020, the~~]
 248 (3) The governor shall:
 249 (a) if the governor is aware of an upcoming vacancy in a position that requires Senate
 250 confirmation, provide notice of the upcoming vacancy to the president of the Senate, the Senate
 251 minority leader, and the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel at least 30 days
 252 before the day on which the vacancy occurs; and
 253 (b) establish a process for government entities and other relevant organizations to
 254 provide input on gubernatorial appointments.
 255 [~~(6)~~] (4) When the governor makes a judicial appointment, the governor shall
 256 immediately provide to the president of the Senate and the Office of Legislative Research and
 257 General Counsel:
 258 (a) the name of the judicial appointee; and
 259 (b) the judicial appointee's:
 260 (i) resume;
 261 (ii) complete file of all the application materials the governor received from the
 262 [~~Judicial Nominating Commission~~] judicial nominating commission; and
 263 (iii) any other related documents, including any letters received by the governor about
 264 the appointee, unless the letter specifically directs that [~~it~~] the letter may not be shared.
 265 [~~(7)~~] (5) The governor shall inform the president of the Senate and the Office of
 266 Legislative Research and General Counsel of the number of letters withheld pursuant to
 267 Subsection [~~(6)(b)(iii)~~] (4)(b)(iii).
 268 [~~(8)~~] (6) (a) Letters of inquiry submitted by any judge at the request of any judicial
 269 nominating commission [~~shall be~~] are classified as private in accordance with Section
 270 [63G-2-302](#).
 271 (b) All other records received from the governor pursuant to this Subsection [~~(8)~~] (6)
 272 may be classified as private in accordance with Section [63G-2-302](#).
 273 [~~(9)~~] (7) The Senate shall consent or refuse to give [~~its~~] the Senate's consent to [~~the~~] a

274 nomination or judicial appointment.

275 ~~[(10) A judicial nominating commission shall, at the time the judicial nominating~~
276 ~~commission certifies a list of the most qualified judicial applicants to the governor under~~
277 ~~Section [78A-10-104](#), submit the same list to the president of the Senate, the Senate minority~~
278 ~~leader, and the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.]~~

279 Section 5. Section **78A-10-102** is amended to read:

280 **78A-10-102. Nomination, appointment, and confirmation of judges -- Judicial**
281 **nomination commissions.**

282 ~~[Judges]~~ Before July 1, 2023, judges for courts of record in Utah ~~[shall be]~~ are
283 nominated, appointed, and confirmed [as provided in] in accordance with this chapter, Section
284 [67-1-2](#), and Utah Constitution Article VIII, Section 8~~[, and this chapter].~~

285 Section 6. Section **78A-10-104** is amended to read:

286 **78A-10-104. Convening of judicial nominating commissions -- Certification to**
287 **governor of nominees -- Meetings to investigate prospective candidates.**

288 (1) Unless a hiring freeze is implemented in accordance with Section [78A-2-113](#), the
289 governor shall ensure that:

290 (a) the recruitment period to fill a judicial vacancy begins 235 days before the effective
291 date of a vacancy, unless sufficient notice is not given, in which case the recruitment period
292 shall begin within 10 days of receiving notice;

293 (b) the recruitment period is a minimum of 30 days but not more than 90 days, unless
294 fewer than nine applications are received, in which case the recruitment period may be
295 extended up to 30 days; and

296 (c) the chair of the judicial nominating commission having authority over the vacancy
297 shall convene a meeting not more than 10 days after the close of the recruitment period.

298 (2) The time limits in Subsection (1) shall begin to run the day the hiring freeze ends.

299 (3) The nominating commission may:

300 (a) meet as necessary to perform its function; and

301 (b) investigate prospective candidates.

302 (4) Not later than 45 days after convening, the:

303 (a) appellate court nominating commission shall certify to the governor a list of the
304 seven most qualified applicants per vacancy; and

305 (b) trial court nominating commission shall certify to the governor a list of the five
306 most qualified applicants per vacancy.

307 (5) A commission shall, at the time that the commission certifies a list of the most
308 qualified applicants to the governor, submit the same list to the president of the Senate, the
309 Senate minority leader, and the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

310 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) The governor shall fill the vacancy within 30 days after receiving the list of
311 nominees.

312 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) If the governor fails to fill the vacancy within 30 days of receiving the list of
313 nominees from the nominating commission, the chief justice of the Supreme Court shall,
314 within 20 days, appoint a person from the list of nominees certified to the governor.

315 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) A nominating commission may not nominate a person who has served on a
316 nominating commission within six months of the date that the commission was last convened.

317 Section 7. Section **78A-10a-101** is enacted to read:

318 **CHAPTER 10a. JUDICIAL SELECTION**

319 **Part 1. General Provisions**

320 **78A-10a-101. Definitions.**

321 As used in this part:

322 (1) "Commission" means a judicial nominating commission created under Section
323 [78A-10a-302](#) or [78A-10a-402](#).

324 (2) "Commissioner" means an individual appointed by the governor to serve on a
325 judicial nominating commission created under Section [78A-10a-302](#) or [78A-10a-402](#).

326 Section 8. Section **78A-10a-102** is enacted to read:

327 **78A-10a-102. Nomination, appointment, and confirmation of judges.**

328 (1) On and after July 1, 2023, judges for courts of record in this state are nominated,
329 appointed, and confirmed in accordance with this chapter, Section [67-1-2](#), and Utah
330 Constitution, Article VIII, Section 8.

331 (2) A commission, the governor, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, and the Senate
332 shall nominate and select judges based solely upon consideration of fitness for office without
333 regard to any partisan political consideration.

334 Section 9. Section **78A-10a-103** is enacted to read:

335 **78A-10a-103. Judicial nominating commissions -- Transition clause.**

336 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), an individual appointed by the governor to
337 serve on a judicial nominating commission before July 1, 2023, is removed from the judicial
338 nominating commission on June 30, 2023.

339 (2) On or after May 3, 2023, but before July 1, 2023, the governor may appoint a
340 commissioner to serve on a commission in accordance with this chapter.

341 (3) A commissioner appointed by the governor under Subsection (2) may not begin the
342 commissioner's term of service until July 1, 2023.

343 (4) Nothing in this chapter prevents the governor from appointing an individual
344 removed from a judicial nominating commission under Subsection (1) to serve as a
345 commissioner under this chapter on or after July 1, 2023, if the individual's appointment meets
346 the requirements of this chapter.

347 Section 10. Section **78A-10a-201** is enacted to read:

348 **Part 2. Judicial Selection Process**

349 **78A-10a-201. State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice -- Duties --**
350 **Rulemaking.**

351 The State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice shall:

352 (1) enact rules establishing procedures for the meetings of a commission in accordance
353 with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and

354 (2) ensure that the rules described in Subsection (1):

355 (a) comply with the requirements of this chapter;

356 (b) include standards that:

357 (i) maintain the confidentiality of applications for a judicial vacancy and related
358 documents;

359 (ii) address destroying the records of the names of applicants, applications, and related
360 documents upon the completion of the judicial nomination process; and

361 (iii) govern a commissioner's disqualification and inability to serve;

362 (c) allow for public comment concerning the judicial nomination process,
363 qualifications for judicial office, and individual applicants;

364 (d) include evaluation criteria for the selection of judicial nominees; and

365 (e) address procedures for:

366 (i) taking summary minutes at a commission meeting;

367 (ii) simultaneously forwarding the names of nominees to the governor, the president of
368 the Senate, and the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel as described in
369 Subsection 78A-10a-203(5); and

370 (iii) requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to immediately inform the
371 governor when a judge is removed, resigns, or retires.

372 Section 11. Section 78A-10a-202 is enacted to read:

373 **78A-10a-202. Time periods -- Recruitment period for judicial vacancy --**
374 **Convening a judicial nominating commission.**

375 (1) (a) Unless a hiring freeze is implemented in accordance with Section 78A-2-113,
376 the governor shall ensure that:

377 (i) except as provided in Subsection (1)(a)(ii), the recruitment period to fill a judicial
378 vacancy begins 235 days before the effective date of the judicial vacancy;

379 (ii) if sufficient notice of a judicial vacancy is not given to the governor, the
380 recruitment period to fill a judicial vacancy begins within 10 days after the day on which the
381 governor receives notice;

382 (iii) except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), the recruitment period is a minimum of at
383 least 30 days but no more than 90 days; and

384 (iv) the chair of the commission having authority over the vacancy shall convene a
385 meeting not more than 10 days after the close of the recruitment period.

386 (b) If fewer than nine applications are received for a judicial vacancy, the governor
387 may extend the recruitment period described in Subsection (1)(a)(iii) up to 30 days.

388 (2) If there is a hiring freeze implemented in accordance with Section 78A-2-113, the
389 time periods described in Subsection (1) shall begin to run on the day that the hiring freeze
390 ends.

391 Section 12. Section 78A-10a-203 is enacted to read:

392 **78A-10a-203. Procedures for judicial nomination commission -- Meetings --**
393 **Certification -- Governor appointment.**

394 (1) (a) A commission may:

395 (i) meet as necessary to perform the commission's function; and

396 (ii) investigate the applicants of a judicial vacancy, including seeking input from
397 members and employees of the judiciary and the community.

398 (b) A commission may consult with the Judicial Council regarding the applicants for a
399 judicial vacancy.

400 (c) A commission is exempt from the requirements of Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and
401 Public Meetings Act.

402 (2) In determining which of the applicants are the most qualified, a commission shall
403 determine by a majority vote of the commissioners present which of the applicants best possess
404 the ability, temperament, training, and experience that qualifies an applicant for the office.

405 (3) (a) Except as provided under Subsection (3)(b):

406 (i) the appellate court nominating commission shall certify to the governor a list of the
407 seven most qualified applicants per judicial vacancy; and

408 (ii) a district and juvenile court nominating commission shall certify to the governor a
409 list of the five most qualified applicants per judicial vacancy.

410 (b) If a commission is considering applicants for more than one judicial vacancy
411 existing at the same time and for the same court, the commission shall include one additional
412 applicant for each additional judicial vacancy in the court in the list of applicants the
413 commission certifies to the governor.

414 (4) A commission shall certify a list to the governor under Subsection (3) no more than
415 45 days after convening in accordance with Section [78A-10a-202](#).

416 (5) A commission shall, at the time that the commission certifies a list of the most
417 qualified applicants to the governor, submit the same list to the president of the Senate, the
418 Senate minority leader, and the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

419 (6) A commission shall ensure that the lists of applicants certified to the governor:

420 (a) meet the qualifications required by law to fill the office; and

421 (b) are willing to serve.

422 (7) In determining which of the applicants are the most qualified, a commission may
423 not decline to certify an applicant's name to the governor because:

424 (a) the commission declined to submit that applicant's name to the governor to fill a
425 previous judicial vacancy;

426 (b) a previous commission declined to submit that applicant's name to the governor; or

427 (c) the commission or a previous commission submitted the applicant's name to the
428 governor and the governor selected another individual to fill the judicial vacancy.

429 (8) A commission may not certify:

430 (a) an applicant who is a justice or judge that was not retained by the voters for the
431 office for which the justice or judge was defeated until after the expiration of that justice's or
432 judge's term of office; and

433 (b) an applicant who has served on a commission within six months after the day on
434 which the commission was last convened.

435 (9) The governor shall fill a judicial vacancy within 30 days after the day on which the
436 governor received the list of nominees from the commission.

437 (10) If the governor fails to fill a judicial vacancy within 30 days after the day on which
438 the governor received the list of nominees from the commission, the chief justice of the
439 Supreme Court shall, within 20 days, appoint an applicant from the list of nominees certified to
440 the governor by the commission.

441 Section 13. Section **78A-10a-204** is enacted to read:

442 **78A-10a-204. Senate confirmation of judicial appointments -- Courts of record.**

443 (1) The Senate shall:

444 (a) consider and render a decision on each judicial appointment within 60 days after the
445 day of the judicial appointment; and

446 (b) if necessary, convene the Senate in an extraordinary session to consider the judicial
447 appointment.

448 (2) If the Senate fails to approve a judicial appointment, the office is considered vacant
449 and a new nominating process begins.

450 (3) A judicial appointment is effective upon approval of a majority of all members of
451 the Senate.

452 Section 14. Section **78A-10a-301** is enacted to read:

453 **Part 3. Appellate Court Nominating Commission**

454 **78A-10a-301. Definitions.**

455 As used in this part:

456 (1) "Commission" means the Appellate Court Nominating Commission created under
457 Section [78A-10a-302](#).

458 (2) "Commissioner" means an individual appointed by the governor to serve on the
459 Appellate Court Nominating Commission created under Section [78A-10a-302](#).

460 Section 15. Section **78A-10a-302** is enacted to read:

461 **78A-10a-302. Creation -- Purpose.**

462 (1) There is created the Appellate Court Nominating Commission.

463 (2) The Appellate Court Nominating Commission shall nominate individuals to fill
464 judicial vacancies on the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

465 Section 16. Section **78A-10a-303** is enacted to read:

466 **78A-10a-303. Membership -- Vacancies -- Removal.**

467 (1) The Appellate Court Nominating Commission shall consist of seven
468 commissioners, each appointed by the governor to serve a four-year term.

469 (2) A commissioner shall:

470 (a) be a United States citizen;

471 (b) be a resident of Utah; and

472 (c) serve until the commissioner's successor is appointed.

473 (3) The governor shall appoint at least one licensed or retired attorney to serve as a
474 commissioner.

475 (4) The governor may not appoint:

476 (a) a commissioner to serve successive terms; or

477 (b) a member of the Legislature to serve as a commissioner.

478 (5) In determining whether to appoint an individual to serve as a commissioner, the
479 governor shall consider whether the individual's appointment would ensure that the
480 commission selects applicants without any regard to partisan political consideration.

481 (6) The governor shall appoint the chair of the commission from among the
482 membership of the commission.

483 (7) The governor shall fill any vacancy on the commission caused by the expiration of
484 a commissioner's term.

485 (8) (a) If a commissioner is disqualified, removed, or is otherwise unable to serve, the
486 governor shall appoint a replacement commissioner to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

487 (b) A replacement commissioner appointed under Subsection (8)(a) may not be
488 reappointed upon expiration of the term of service.

489 (9) The governor may remove a commissioner from the commission at any time with
490 or without cause.

491 Section 17. Section **78A-10a-304** is enacted to read:

492 **78A-10a-304. Procedure -- Staff.**

493 (1) Four commissioners are a quorum.

494 (2) The governor shall appoint a member of the governor's staff to serve as staff to the
495 commission.

496 (3) The governor shall:

497 (a) ensure that the commission follows the rules promulgated by the State Commission
498 on Criminal and Juvenile Justice under Section [78A-10a-201](#); and

499 (b) resolve any questions regarding the rules described in Subsection (3)(a).

500 (4) A commissioner who is a licensed attorney may recuse oneself if there is a conflict
501 of interest that makes the commissioner unable to serve.

502 Section 18. Section **78A-10a-305** is enacted to read:

503 **78A-10a-305. Expenses -- Per diem and travel.**

504 A commissioner may not receive compensation or benefits for the commissioner's
505 service but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

506 (1) Section [63A-3-106](#);

507 (2) Section [63A-3-107](#); and

508 (3) rules made by the Division of Finance in accordance with Sections [63A-3-106](#) and
509 [63A-3-107](#).

510 Section 19. Section **78A-10a-401** is enacted to read:

511 **Part 4. District and Juvenile Court Nominating Commissions**

512 **78A-10a-401. Definitions.**

513 As used in this part:

514 (1) "Commission" means a district and juvenile court nominating commission created
515 under Section [78A-10a-402](#).

516 (2) "Commissioner" means an individual appointed by the governor to serve on a
517 district and juvenile court nominating commission created under Section [78A-10a-402](#).

518 Section 20. Section **78A-10a-402** is enacted to read:

519 **78A-10a-402. Creation -- Purpose.**

520 (1) There is a district and juvenile court nominating commission created for each geographical
521 division of the district and juvenile courts.

522 (2) A district and juvenile court nominating commission shall nominate individuals to
523 fill judicial vacancies for the district court and the juvenile court within the commission's
524 geographical division.

525 Section 21. Section **78A-10a-403** is enacted to read:

526 **78A-10a-403. Membership -- Vacancies -- Removal.**

527 (1) A district and juvenile court nominating commission shall consist of seven
528 commissioners, each appointed by the governor to serve a four-year term.

529 (2) A commissioner shall:

530 (a) be a United States citizen;

531 (b) be a resident of Utah; and

532 (c) serve until the commissioner's successor is appointed.

533 (3) The governor shall appoint at least one licensed or retired attorney to serve as a
534 commissioner.

535 (4) The governor may not appoint:

536 (a) a commissioner to successive terms; and

537 (b) a member of the Legislature to serve as a commissioner.

538 (5) In determining whether to appoint an individual to serve as a commissioner, the
539 governor shall consider whether the individual's appointment would ensure that the
540 commission selects applicants without any regard to partisan political consideration.

541 (6) The governor shall appoint the chair of each commission from among the
542 membership of the commission.

543 (7) The governor shall fill any vacancy on the commission caused by the expiration of
544 a commissioner's term.

545 (8) (a) If a commissioner is disqualified, removed, or is otherwise unable to serve, the
546 governor shall appoint a replacement commissioner to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

547 (b) A replacement commissioner appointed under Subsection (8)(a) may not be
548 reappointed upon expiration of the term of service.

549 (9) The governor may remove a commissioner from the commission at any time with
550 or without cause.

551 Section 22. Section **78A-10a-404** is enacted to read:

552 **78A-10a-404. Procedure -- Staff.**

553 (1) Four commissioners are a quorum.

554 (2) The governor shall appoint a member of the governor's staff to serve as staff for
555 each commission.

556 (3) The governor shall:

557 (a) ensure that each commission follows the rules promulgated by the State
558 Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice under Section [78A-10a-201](#); and

559 (b) resolve any questions regarding the rules.

560 (4) A commissioner who is a licensed attorney may recuse oneself if there is a conflict
561 of interest that makes the commissioner unable to serve.

562 Section 23. Section **78A-10a-405** is enacted to read:

563 **78A-10a-405. Expenses -- Per diem and travel.**

564 A commissioner may not receive compensation or benefits for the commissioner's
565 service but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

566 (1) Section [63A-3-106](#);

567 (2) Section [63A-3-107](#); and

568 (3) rules made by the Division of Finance in accordance with Sections [63A-3-106](#) and
569 [63A-3-107](#).

570 Section 24. **Coordinating S.B. 129 with H.B. 216 -- Superseding technical and**
571 **substantive amendments.**

572 If this S.B. 129 and H.B. 216, Business and Chancery Court Amendments, both pass
573 and become law, the Legislature intends that, on July 1, 2024, the Office of Legislative
574 Research and General Counsel prepare the Utah Code database for publication as follows:

575 (1) not enacting Section [78A-10-101.5](#) in H.B. 216, Business and Chancery Court
576 Amendments;

577 (2) amending Section [78A-10a-101](#) in this S.B. 129 to read:

578 "As used in this part:

579 (1) "Commission" means a judicial nominating commission created under Section
580 [78A-10a-302](#), [78A-10a-402](#), or [78A-10a-502](#).

581 (2) "Commissioner" means an individual appointed by the governor to serve on a
582 judicial nominating commission created under Section [78A-10a-302](#), [78A-10a-402](#), or
583 [78A-10a-502](#)."

584 (3) amending Subsection 78A-10a-203(3)(a) in this S.B. 129 to read:
585 "(3) (a) Except as provided under Subsection (3)(b):
586 (i) the appellate court nominating commission shall certify to the governor a list of the
587 seven most qualified applicants per judicial vacancy;
588 (ii) a district and juvenile court nominating commission shall certify to the governor a
589 list of the five most qualified applicants per judicial vacancy; and
590 (iii) the business and chancery court nominating commission shall certify to the
591 governor a list of the seven most qualified applicants per judicial vacancy.";
592 (4) renumbering Section 78A-10-401 in H.B. 216 to Section 78A-10a-501 and
593 amending Subsection 78A-10a-501(1) to read:
594 "Commission" means the Business and Chancery Court Nominating Commission
595 created in Section 78A-10a-502.";
596 (5) renumbering Section 78A-10-402 in H.B. 216 to Section 78A-10a-502;
597 (6) renumbering Section 78A-10-403 in H.B. 216 to Section 78A-10a-503 and
598 amending Section 78A-10a-503 to read:
599 "(1) The Business and Chancery Court Nominating Commission shall consist of seven
600 commissioners, each appointed by the governor to serve a four-year term.
601 (2) A commissioner shall:
602 (a) be a United States citizen;
603 (b) be a resident of Utah; and
604 (c) serve until the commissioner's successor is appointed.
605 (3) The governor shall appoint at least one licensed or retired attorney to serve as a
606 commissioner.
607 (4) The governor may not appoint:
608 (a) a commissioner to serve successive terms; or
609 (b) a member of the Legislature to serve as a member of the commission.
610 (5) In determining whether to appoint an individual to serve as a commissioner, the
611 governor shall consider whether the individual's appointment would ensure that the
612 commission selects applicants without any regard to partisan political consideration.
613 (6) The governor shall appoint the chair of the commission from among the
614 membership of the commission.

615 (7) The governor shall fill any vacancy in the commission caused by the expiration of a
616 commissioner's term.

617 (8) (a) If a commissioner is disqualified, removed, or is otherwise unable to serve, the
618 governor shall appoint a replacement commissioner to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

619 (b) A replacement commissioner appointed under Subsection (8)(a) may not be
620 reappointed upon expiration of the term of service.

621 (9) The governor may remove a commissioner from the commission at any time with
622 or without cause.";

623 (7) renumbering Section 78A-10-404 in H.B. 216 to Section 78A-10a-504 and
624 amending:

625 (a) the reference in Section 78A-10a-504 from "Section 78A-10-103" to "Section
626 78A-10a-201"; and

627 (b) Subsection 78A-10a-504(4) to read:

628 "A commissioner who is a licensed attorney may recuse oneself if there is a conflict of
629 interest that makes the commissioner unable to serve."; and

630 (8) renumbering Section 78A-10-405 in H.B. 216 to Section 78A-10a-505.

631 **Section 25. Coordinating S.B. 129 with H.B. 251 -- Superseding technical and**
632 **substantive amendments.**

633 If this S.B. 129 and H.B. 251, Court Amendments, both pass and become law, the
634 Legislature intends that, on July 1, 2024, when the Office of Legislative Research and General
635 Counsel prepares the Utah Code database for publication, the Office of Legislative Research
636 and General Counsel not implement the coordination clause affecting Sections 31A-5-414,
637 31A-5-415, and 31A-16-111 in H.B. 251.