

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1199

Approved by the Governor March 23, 1972

Introduced by Fred W. Carstens, 30th District

AN ACT for submission to the electors of an amendment to Article V, section 21, of the Constitution of Nebraska, relating to judiciary; to change the number of members of the judicial nominating commission; to provide certain qualifications; to provide that the Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be entitled to a vote on the commission; to provide for release of names of candidates prior to the meeting of the commission; to provide the manner of voting and number of votes required for nomination; to provide for the submission of the proposed amendment to the electors at the general election in November, 1972; to provide for the manner of submission and form of ballot; and to provide the effective date thereof.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That at the general election in November, 1972, there shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska for approval the following amendment to Article V, section 21, of the Constitution of Nebraska, which is hereby proposed by the Legislature:

"Sec. 21. (1) In the case of any vacancy in the Supreme Court or in any district court or in such other court or courts made subject to this provision by law, such vacancy shall be filled by the Governor from a list of at least two nominees presented to him by the appropriate judicial nominating commission. If the Governor shall fail to make an appointment from the list within sixty days from the date it is presented to him, the appointment shall be made by the Chief Justice or the acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from the same list.

(2) In all other cases, any vacancy shall be filled as provided by law.

(3) At the next general election following the expiration of three years from the date of appointment of any judge under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section and every six years thereafter as long as such judge retains office, each Justice or Judge of the Supreme Court or district court or such other court or

courts as the Legislature shall provide shall have his right to remain in office subject to approval or rejection by the electorate in such manner as the Legislature shall provide; Provided, that every judge holding or elected to an office described in subsection (1) of this section on the effective date of this amendment whether by election or appointment, upon qualification shall be deemed to have been selected and to have once received the approval of the electorate as herein provided, and shall be required to submit his right to continue in office to the approval or rejection of the electorate at the general election next preceding the expiration of the term of office for which such judge was elected or appointed, and every six years thereafter. In the case of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the electorate of the entire state shall vote on the question of approval or rejection. In the case of any Judge of the Supreme Court, other than the Chief Justice, and any judge of the district court or any other court made subject to subsection (1) of this section, the electorate of the district from which such judge was selected shall vote on the question of such approval or rejection.

(4) There shall be a judicial nominating commission for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and one for each judicial district of the Supreme Court and of the district court and one for each area or district served by any other court made subject to subsection (1) of this section by law. Each judicial nominating commission shall consist of seven nine members, one of whom shall be a Judge of the Supreme Court who shall be designated by the Governor and shall act as chairman, but shall not be entitled to vote. The members of the bar of the state residing in the area from which the nominees are to be selected shall designate three four of their number to serve as members of said commission, and the Governor shall appoint three four citizens, not admitted to practice law before the courts of the state, from among the residents of the same geographical area to serve as members of said commission. Not more than four of such voting members shall be of the same political party. The terms of office for members of each judicial nominating commission shall be staggered and shall be fixed by the Legislature. The nominees of any such commission cannot include a member of such commission or any person who has served as a member of such commission within a period of two years immediately preceding his nomination or for such additional period as the Legislature shall provide. The names of candidates shall be released to the public prior to a public hearing.

(5) Members of the nominating commission shall vote for the nominee of their choice by roll call. Each candidate must receive a majority of the voting members of the nominating commission to have his name submitted to the Governor."

Sec. 2. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors in the manner prescribed by Article XVI, section 1, of the Constitution of Nebraska. The proposition for the submission of the proposed amendment shall be placed upon the ballot in the following form:

"Constitutional amendment increasing the number of members on the judicial nominating committee; to provide certain qualifications; to provide that a Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be entitled to a vote on the commission; to provide for release of names of candidates; and to provide the manner of voting on names of candidates and the number of votes required to be nominated.

For

Against"

Sec. 3. That the proposed amendment, if adopted, shall be in force and take effect immediately upon the completion of the canvass of the votes, at which time it shall be the duty of the Governor to proclaim it as a part of the Constitution of Nebraska.