



2023-2024 General Assembly

HOUSE BILL 259: 2023 Appropriations Act, Sec. 16.20: Modify Judicial Standards Commission Membership

Committee:		Date:	December 12, 2023
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Bill Patterson Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Sec. 16.20 of S.L. 2023-134		

OVERVIEW: Section 16.20 of S.L. 2023-134 modifies the membership of the Judicial Standards Commission by:

- Providing that four seats formerly held by members of the State Bar elected by the State Bar Council will now be held by two district court judges and two superior court judges appointed by the General Assembly.
- Permitting members of the State Bar to be appointed to fill any of the four seats designated for public members.

This section became effective October 3, 2023.

CURRENT LAW: The Judicial Standards Commission currently has 14 members, comprising:

- Two Court of Appeals judges, two superior court judges, and two district court judges appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- Four members of the State Bar elected by the State Bar Council.
- Four citizens who are not active or retired judges and not members of the State Bar, two of whom are appointed by the Governor and two of whom are appointed by the General Assembly.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 16.20 makes the following changes to the membership of the Judicial Standards Commission:

- Provides that the four seats formerly filled by members of the State Bar elected by the State Bar Council will now be filled by the following judges appointed by the General Assembly:
 - Two district court judges, one recommended by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one recommended by the Speaker of the House.
 - Two superior court judges, one recommended by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one recommended by the Speaker of the House.
- Removes the requirement that the four citizen members are not members of the State Bar.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective October 3, 2023, and resulted in the immediate conclusion of the terms of the four members previously elected by the State Bar Council, with those seats to be filled by the General Assembly. The change to the qualifications of the four citizen members applies to future appointments made to fill those seats.

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Legislative Analysis
Division