

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Judicial Selection Procedures

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Overview

The bill proposes a constitutional amendment. Under the amendment, judges would be appointed by the governor for three-year terms rather than being elected to six-year terms.

Section

- 1** **Constitutional amendment.** Amends the constitution to provide that a judge's term of office ends when he or she files for an elective office. Conforming technical amendment.

Amends the constitution to provide for judges to be appointed by the governor in all cases. Currently, they are appointed only to fill a vacancy. Changes the judicial term length from six years to three years.
- 2** **Submission to voters.** Provides for submitting the question to the voters at the 2004 election. States the question: "Shall the constitution be amended so judges are appointed by the governor to three-year terms instead of being elected?"
- 3** **Transition.** Makes the constitutional amendment apply to each judicial office as the judge's term expires or the office otherwise becomes vacant after the 2004 general election. Directs the legislature to amend the statutes as soon as possible after the 2004 general election to comply with the constitutional amendment.