

**Senate File 407 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 407  
BY GARRETT

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to the membership of district judicial nominating
- 2 commissions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 46.3, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3 1. The governor shall appoint ~~five~~ six eligible electors  
4 of each judicial election district to the district judicial  
5 nominating commission.

6 Sec. 2. Section 46.5, subsection 4, Code 2025, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 4. If a vacancy occurs in the office of chairperson of  
9 ~~the state~~ a judicial nominating commission, the members of the  
10 commission shall elect a new chairperson as provided in section  
11 46.6. ~~If a vacancy occurs in the office of chairperson of a~~  
12 ~~district judicial nominating commission or in the absence of the~~  
13 ~~chairperson, the members of the particular commission shall elect~~  
14 ~~a temporary chairperson from their own number.~~

15 Sec. 3. Section 46.6, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 ~~4.~~ The commissioners of ~~the state~~ a judicial nominating  
18 commission shall elect a chairperson from their own number. The  
19 chairperson shall serve a two-year term that expires on April  
20 30 of even-numbered years. A commissioner may be reelected  
21 for a second or third term as chairperson. If a chairperson  
22 of a judicial nominating commission desires to be relieved  
23 of the duties of chairperson while retaining the status of  
24 commissioner, the chairperson shall notify the governor and the  
25 other commissioners of the commission. At the next meeting of  
26 the commission, the commissioners shall elect a new chairperson  
27 for the remainder of the two-year term.

28 Sec. 4. Section 46.6, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended by  
29 striking the subsection.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill relates to the membership of district judicial  
34 nominating commissions. Under current law, the governor appoints  
35 five eligible electors of each judicial district to each

1 11-person commission. The bill increases the number of electors  
2 appointed by the governor to six.

3 Under current law, the most senior judge in the district  
4 serves as a commissioner and as the chairperson of that  
5 particular district judicial nominating commission. The bill  
6 removes the judge from the commission and from being chairperson  
7 and requires the members of each district judicial nominating  
8 commission to elect a chairperson from their own number.

9 District judicial nominating commissions are responsible for  
10 screening applicants and selecting nominees for district court  
11 judicial vacancies. There is a nominating commission for each  
12 of Iowa's 14 judicial election subdistricts. District judicial  
13 nominating commissions provide the governor with a slate of two  
14 nominees from which to make an appointment to the district court.

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