SENATE BILL 379

By Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 29 and Title 17, Chapter 4, relative to
judges.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 17-4-102, is amended by deleting such section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 17-4-102.

(a) There is established as a part of the judicial branch of the state a judicial selection commission to be composed of seventeen (17) members as follows:

(1) Seven (7) members who are lawyers appointed by the speaker of the senate, with no more than three (3) members being from any one grand division;

(2) Seven (7) members who are lawyers appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives with no more than three (3) members being from any one grand division; and

(3) Three (3) members who shall not be lawyers, with no more than one (1) nonlawyer member being from each grand division.

(b) Each speaker shall appoint one (1) member who is not a lawyer and the speakers shall appoint jointly the third nonlawyer member.

(c) The nominees shall reflect the diversity of the state's population.

(d) Each speaker in making the appointments to the judicial selection commission shall appoint persons who approximate the population of the state with respect to race, including the dominant ethnic minority population, and gender.

(e) Each speaker in making appointments shall do so with a conscious intention of selecting a body which reflects a diverse mixture with respect to race, including the dominant ethnic minority population, and gender.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 17-4-112, is amended by adding the following language to the end of such section:

A person on a first panel of nominees that is rejected shall not be eligible to be on the second panel of nominees submitted to the governor.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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