

Section 5.15. Nomination and Appointment.

A judicial nominating commission shall nominate from three to five eligible persons for each judicial vacancy. Nominations to fill a vacancy shall be made not more than thirty days prior to nor more than sixty days after the vacancy occurs. The governor shall fill a vacancy by appointing one person from the list of nominees. If the governor fails to appoint one of the nominees within sixty days after receiving the list, his power to make the appointment shall end and the chief judge of the Court of Appeals shall appoint one of the nominees.

Section 5.16. Appellate Courts Nominating Commission.

The Appellate Courts Nominating Commission shall make nominations to fill a vacancy on the Court of Appeals or on the Intermediate Appellate Court. The Commission shall consist of six lay members and six lawyer members. The term of each member shall be four years, but the General Assembly shall prescribe by law shorter terms for four of the lay and four of the lawyer members first appointed or elected, in order to establish overlapping terms of office. A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled for the remainder of the term. No member shall receive compensation for his service.

Section 5.17. Trial Courts Nominating Commissions.

A trial courts nominating commission shall make nominations to fill a vacancy on the Superior Court or on the District Court. The number of commissions and the terms of their members shall be prescribed by law. Each commission shall have at least six members and shall consist of an equal number of lay and lawyer members as prescribed by law. No member shall receive compensation for his service. Each commission shall make nominations to fill vacancies on the Superior Court in one or more counties, or on the District Court in one or more districts, or both, as prescribed by law.

Section 5.18. Lawyer Members of Nominating Commissions.

Lawyers throughout the State shall elect by secret ballot the lawyer members of the Appellate Courts Nominating Commission.