

for each of the eight judicial circuits of this State. The purpose of the Commissions shall be to assist the Governor in carrying out his desire and intent to appoint to judicial offices on the trial courts only those members of the bar who are, by virtue of their learning, experience, character and temperament, best fitted therefor.

Each Commission shall be composed of eleven members, of whom five shall be from the general public appointed by the Governor, five shall be lawyers to be elected by the members of the bar in an election conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts pursuant to rules governing such election promulgated by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and a Chairman who shall be appointed by the Governor.

The five members appointed by the Governor from the general public to each Commission on Trial Court Judicial Selection, shall be residents and registered voters in the judicial circuit covered by that Commission to which they are appointed. Of the five members appointed by the Governor from the general public to a Commission for any judicial circuit containing more than one county, at least one shall be a resident and registered voter in each county within the judicial circuit. None of the members to the eight commissions appointed by the Governor from the general public shall be lawyers or elected state officials or full-time state employees.

The five lawyers elected by the members of the bar to each Commission shall have such residency and other qualifications as prescribed in rules promulgated by the Court of Appeals of Maryland.

The Chairman of each Commission shall be a resident and registered voter in the judicial circuit covered by that Commission to which he is appointed, shall not be an elected state official or a full-time state employee, and may be either a lawyer or a layman.

The initial terms of the Chairman and the five lay members appointed by the Governor to each Commission shall expire with the expiration of the present gubernatorial term in January 1971, and their successors shall serve for terms of four years coexistent with the term of the Governor. The initial terms of the five lawyers elected by the members of the bar to each Commission shall expire with the expiration of the next gubernatorial term in January 1975, and their successors shall serve for terms of four years coexistent with the term of the Governor. If a vacancy occurs during a term among any of the positions filled by gubernatorial appointees, the Governor shall appoint a person having the same qualifications as the initial appointee to serve for the balance of the term. Vacancies during a term among the positions filled by lawyers elected by members of the bar, shall be filled as prescribed by rules promulgated by the Court of Appeals of Maryland. No member of the eight Commissions shall be eligible for appointment to fill any vacancy in judicial office on any trial court during the term for which he shall have been chosen.

The Commissions shall suggest to the Governor appointees for vacant judicial offices to be filled by the Governor on the Circuit Courts, the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, the District Court if and when such court is established, and, pending establishment of the District Court, the People's Court of Baltimore City, the Municipal Court of Baltimore City, and the People's Courts of Prince George's and Wicomico Counties. Whenever there is a vacancy in a judicial office on one of the aforementioned courts, the Commission for the judicial circuit embracing the geographical area from which the vacancy must be filled, upon the call of the Governor, shall meet to consider and pass upon the qualifications of proposed nominees. The Commission shall seek, receive and review recommendations and information concerning the qualifications of proposed nominees for the vacancy.