

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1177

By: Steidley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to courts; creating the Judicial Compensation Commission; providing for appointment and terms of members; providing for vacancies; providing that members serve without compensation; providing for travel reimbursement; prohibiting certain persons from serving; limiting attorney appointments; providing procedure for selection of attorney appointments; providing for appointment and election of officers; providing for Commission staff; specifying time for certain meetings and providing for additional meetings; declaring meetings subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; declaring records subject to the Oklahoma Open Records Act; declaring the Commission to be an advisory commission; specifying duties; providing for quorum; providing for annual reports; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1701 of Title 20, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Judicial Compensation Commission. The Commission shall be composed of three members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and five members appointed by the Governor. Commission members shall be representative of the general population of the state. There shall be at least one Commission member from each congressional district but there shall be no more than two members from a congressional district. The appointed members of the Commission shall serve terms which run concurrently with the terms of the respective appointing authorities and shall serve at their pleasure. Any vacancy in office shall be filled by the original appointing authority. The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be paid actual and necessary travel expenses according to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act for each day of actual attendance at any meeting of the Commission as follows:

1. Members who are employed by the state shall be reimbursed by their respective employing agency;

2. Members who are in the Legislature shall receive reimbursement from the house in which they serve, except when the Legislature is in session and the meeting is in Oklahoma City; and

3. Any other member shall receive reimbursement from funds of the Legislative Service Bureau.

B. No members of the judiciary shall be appointed to or serve on the Commission.

C. No more than two members of the Oklahoma Bar Association may be allowed to serve on the Commission at any one time. Appointments of attorneys to the Commission shall be made from a list of five (5) names submitted by the Governing Board of the Oklahoma Bar Association to the appointing authorities.

D. The chairman of the Commission shall be designated by the Governor. The Commission shall elect officers as they deem

necessary from their membership. Necessary staff shall be provided for the Commission by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

E. The Commission shall meet on the third Tuesday of November every year at nine o'clock a.m. in the State Capitol Building. All Commission meetings shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Section 301 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Commission may, at the call of its chairman or upon a majority vote of its membership, hold such additional meetings as are necessary to carry out its official duties.

F. Six (6) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum and a majority vote of such quorum shall be necessary for the Commission to act. However, for the final report required by subsection I of this section a majority vote of all members of the Commission shall be necessary for approval of the report.

G. All Commission records shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Records Act, Section 24A.1 et seq. of Title 51 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

H. The Commission shall be an advisory commission which shall study and make recommendations with respect to all aspects of judicial compensation, to the end that the judicial compensation structure shall be adequate to assure that highly qualified persons will be attracted to the bench and will continue to serve in judicial office without unreasonable economic hardship.

I. Not later than the second Tuesday of January of each year the Commission shall file a written report of recommendations with the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 1993.

44-1-5137

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