

**BILL SUMMARY**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB3162</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>CS</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/24/2016</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Research Analysis**

The committee substitute for HB3162 proposes a constitutional amendment to make the term of members appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission by the Governor, Speaker and President Pro Tempore at the pleasure of the appointing authority. The measure also makes numerous changes regarding the selection process for filling vacancies for judicial office by:

-Expanding the jurisdiction of the JNC to determine whether the constitutional and statutory qualification of nominees to hold office have been met to also include candidates for intermediate appellate court office, office of district judge and office of associate district judge.

-Requiring the JNC to investigate the criminal and financial background of applicants for Judicial Office or intermediate appellate courts and ensuring that they meet the constitutional and statutory qualifications for office.

-Requiring the JNC to submit a list of all applicants to the Governor and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and allowing the commission to include a merit score for each applicant.

-Making the any appointment to Judicial Office or to an intermediate appellate court subject to confirmation by the Senate.

-Requiring the JNC to submit to the Governor and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court the names of all qualified applicant for the office of district judge or associate district judge if there are fewer than three qualified applicants. If there are more than three qualified applicants, the JNC must evaluate the merits of the applicants and choose three nominees to submit. The Governor must choose a nominee from the list within 60 days or else the duty falls on the Chief Justice to choose from the list of nominees.

Prepared By: Quyen Do

**Fiscal Analysis**

According to officials with the Courts, “there is no fiscal impact.”

Prepared By: Joshua Maxey

**Other Considerations**

None.

