

SENATE BILL No. 8

By Senator King

1-9

1 AN ACT concerning judicial appointments; creating the Kansas
2 commission on judicial ~~qualifications~~ **nominations**; relating to senate
3 confirmation; **amending K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 75-4319 and repealing the**
4 **existing section.**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 **New** Section 1. (a) There is hereby created the Kansas commission on
8 judicial ~~qualifications~~ **nominations**. The commission shall be composed of
9 seven members, appointed as follows:

- 10 (1) Two non-lawyer members appointed by the speaker of the house;
11 (2) one non-lawyer member appointed by the minority leader of the
12 house;
13 (3) one non-lawyer member appointed by the state treasurer;
14 (4) one lawyer member appointed by the chief justice of the supreme
15 court;
16 (5) one lawyer member appointed by the attorney general; and
17 (6) one retired district judge appointed by the Kansas county and
18 district attorneys association.

19 (b) Members shall be appointed for terms of two years. All members
20 may be reappointed. Members shall serve without salary, but may be
21 reimbursed for travel and other expenses actually and necessarily incurred
22 in the performance of their duties.

23 (c) The commission shall elect from its membership a chairperson
24 who shall serve in such capacity for two years and until their successor has
25 been elected.

26 (d) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum to do
27 business, but no final action shall be taken except upon a vote of the
28 majority of the members of the commission. The commission shall ~~not~~ be
29 subject to the open meetings act, K.S.A. 75-4317 through 75-4320a, and
30 amendments thereto. ***The commission, in accordance with K.S.A. 75-***
31 ***4319, and amendments thereto, may recess for a closed or executive***
32 ***meeting when it is considering confidential information related to the***
33 ***appointee's qualifications for office. Any confidential documents or***
34 ***other confidential information obtained by the commission shall be***
35 ***privileged and confidential, shall not be a public record and shall not be***
36 ***subject to discovery or subpoena in a civil or criminal action.***

1 (e) Whenever the governor or the chief justice of the supreme court
2 makes an appointment to the position of justice of the supreme court or
3 judge of the court of appeals, subject to senate confirmation, the
4 commission shall hold a meeting to interview such appointee within 30
5 days after the appointment is made. The commission shall obtain any
6 information related to the appointee's qualifications for office that the
7 commission deems necessary. The commission shall prepare a written
8 report of its assessment of the appointee's qualifications for office. A
9 majority of the commission shall approve the written report and submit
10 such report to the president of the senate and the chairperson of the
11 judiciary committee of the senate not later than 30 days after the
12 appointment is made.

13 **New Sec. 2.** (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, all
14 appointments to the position of justice of the supreme court or judge of the
15 court of appeals made by the governor or the chief justice of the supreme
16 court, which are subject to senate confirmation, may be considered and
17 acted upon by the senate in either executive or regular session except that
18 no final action thereon may be taken in executive session.

19 (b) When any appointment described in subsection (a) is received by
20 the senate, such appointment shall be referred to the judiciary committee
21 of the senate by the president of the senate immediately after the written
22 report concerning such appointment is received from the Kansas
23 commission on judicial qualifications or, if no written report is received
24 within the time specified in section 1, and amendments thereto, on the next
25 legislative day following the last day of the period of time specified for
26 submission of such report in section 1, and amendments thereto.

27 (c) Such appointment referred to the judiciary committee shall be
28 returned to the senate within 15 legislative days after the same are referred,
29 together with a report thereon. If the appointment is not returned to the
30 senate within the period of time specified for its return, the appointment
31 shall be considered to be returned to the senate without recommendation
32 on the next legislative day following the last day of the period of time
33 specified for its return.

34 (d) Any such appointment may be considered and acted upon by the
35 senate at any time after the appointment is returned to the senate. No
36 motion to confirm any such appointment shall be in order without the
37 unanimous consent of the senate until the appointment is returned to the
38 senate.

39 **Sec. 3.** *K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 75-4319 is hereby amended to read as*
40 *follows: 75-4319. (a) Upon formal motion made, seconded and carried,*
41 *all bodies and agencies subject to the open meetings act may recess, but*
42 *not adjourn, open meetings for closed or executive meetings. Any motion*
43 *to recess for a closed or executive meeting shall include a statement of*

1 *(1) the justification for closing the meeting, (2) the subjects to be*
2 *discussed during the closed or executive meeting and (3) the time and*
3 *place at which the open meeting shall resume. Such motion, including*
4 *the required statement, shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting*
5 *and shall be maintained as a part of the permanent records of the body*
6 *or agency. Discussion during the closed or executive meeting shall be*
7 *limited to those subjects stated in the motion.*

8 *(b) No subjects shall be discussed at any closed or executive*
9 *meeting, except the following:*

10 *(1) Personnel matters of nonelected personnel;*

11 *(2) consultation with an attorney for the body or agency which*
12 *would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship;*

13 *(3) matters relating to employer-employee negotiations whether or*
14 *not in consultation with the representative or representatives of the body*
15 *or agency;*

16 *(4) confidential data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets of*
17 *corporations, partnerships, trusts, and individual proprietorships;*

18 *(5) matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a*
19 *person as a student, patient or resident of a public institution, except that*
20 *any such person shall have the right to a public hearing if requested by*
21 *the person;*

22 *(6) preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real*
23 *property;*

24 *(7) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive*
25 *meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 74-8804, and amendments thereto;*

26 *(8) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive*
27 *meeting pursuant to subsection (d)(1) of K.S.A. 38-2212, and*
28 *amendments thereto, or subsection (e) of K.S.A. 38-2213, and*
29 *amendments thereto;*

30 *(9) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive*
31 *meeting pursuant to subsection (j) of K.S.A. 22a-243, and amendments*
32 *thereto;*

33 *(10) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive*
34 *meeting pursuant to subsection (e) of K.S.A. 44-596, and amendments*
35 *thereto;*

36 *(11) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive*
37 *meeting pursuant to subsection (g) of K.S.A. 39-7,119, and amendments*
38 *thereto;*

39 *(12) matters required to be discussed in a closed or executive*
40 *meeting pursuant to a tribal-state gaming compact;*

41 *(13) matters relating to security measures, if the discussion of such*
42 *matters at an open meeting would jeopardize such security measures,*
43 *that protect: (A) Systems, facilities or equipment used in the production,*

1 *transmission or distribution of energy, water or communications*
2 *services; (B) transportation and sewer or wastewater treatment systems,*
3 *facilities or equipment; (C) a public body or agency, public building or*
4 *facility or the information system of a public body or agency; or (D)*
5 *private property or persons, if the matter is submitted to the agency for*
6 *purposes of this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph, security*
7 *means measures that protect against criminal acts intended to intimidate*
8 *or coerce the civilian population, influence government policy by*
9 *intimidation or coercion or to affect the operation of government by*
10 *disruption of public services, mass destruction, assassination or*
11 *kidnapping. Security measures include, but are not limited to,*
12 *intelligence information, tactical plans, resource deployment and*
13 *vulnerability assessments;*

14 *(14) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive*
15 *meeting pursuant to subsection (f) of K.S.A. 65-525, and amendments*
16 *thereto;*

17 *(15) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive*
18 *meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 75-7427, and amendments*
19 *thereto; and*

20 *(16) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive*
21 *meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 46-3801, and amendments*
22 *thereto; and*

23 *(17) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive*
24 *meeting pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto.*

25 *(c) No binding action shall be taken during closed or executive*
26 *recesses, and such recesses shall not be used as a subterfuge to defeat*
27 *the purposes of this act.*

28 *(d) (1) Any confidential records or information relating to security*
29 *measures provided or received under the provisions of subsection (b)*
30 *(13), shall not be subject to subpoena, discovery or other demand in any*
31 *administrative, criminal or civil action.*

32 *(2) (A) Except as otherwise provided by law, any confidential*
33 *documents, records or reports relating to the prisoner review board*
34 *provided or received under the provisions of subsection (b)(16) shall not*
35 *be subject to subpoena, discovery or other demand in any administrative,*
36 *criminal or civil action.*

37 *(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any*
38 *summary statement provided or received under the provisions of*
39 *subsection (b)(16) shall not be subject to subpoena, discovery or other*
40 *demand in any administrative, criminal or civil action.*

41 *Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 75-4319 is hereby repealed.*

42 *Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after*
43 *approval by the qualified electors of the state of a proposition to amend the*

- 1 constitution of the state of Kansas by revising article 3 thereof and its
- 2 publication in the statute book.