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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Effective January 1, 2023, paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 16.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16.71 Florida Gaming Control Commission; creation; meetings; membership.—

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(a) The commission shall consist of five members appointed by the Governor, and subject to confirmation by the Senate, for terms of 4 years. Members of the commission must be appointed by January 1, 2022. The Governor shall consider appointees who reflect Florida's racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. Of the initial five members appointed by the Governor, and immediately upon appointment, the Governor shall appoint one of the members as the initial chair and one of the members as the initial vice chair. At the end of the initial chair's and vice chair's terms pursuant to subparagraph 1., the commission shall elect one of the members of the commission as chair and one of the members of the commission as vice chair.

1. For the purpose of providing staggered terms, of the initial appointments, two members shall be appointed to 4-year terms, two members shall be appointed to 3-year terms, and one member shall be appointed to a 2-year term.

51 2. Of the five members, at least one member must have at
52 least 10 years of experience in law enforcement and criminal
53 investigations, at least one member must be a certified public
54 accountant licensed in this state with at least 10 years of
55 experience in accounting and auditing, and at least one member
56 must be an attorney admitted and authorized to practice law in
57 this state for at least the preceding 10 years.

58 3. Of the five members, no two members may be residents of
59 the same ~~each~~ appellate district ~~shall have one member appointed~~
60 ~~from the district to the commission who is a resident of the~~
61 ~~district~~ at the time of the original appointment.

62 Section 2. Effective January 1, 2023, paragraph (f) is
63 added to subsection (4) of section 27.51, Florida Statutes, to
64 read:

65 27.51 Duties of public defender.—

66 (4) The public defender for the judicial circuit specified
67 in this subsection shall, after the record on appeal is
68 transmitted to the appellate court by the office of the public
69 defender which handled the trial and if requested by any public
70 defender within the indicated appellate district, handle all
71 circuit court and county court appeals within the state courts
72 system and any authorized appeals to the federal courts required
73 of the official making such request:

74 (f) Public defender of the sixth judicial circuit, on
75 behalf of any public defender within the district comprising the

76 Sixth District Court of Appeal.

77 Section 3. Effective January 1, 2023, subsection (1) of
78 section 27.511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

79 27.511 Offices of criminal conflict and civil regional
80 counsel; legislative intent; qualifications; appointment;
81 duties.—

82 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide
83 adequate representation to persons entitled to court-appointed
84 counsel under the Federal or State Constitution or as authorized
85 by general law. It is the further intent of the Legislature to
86 provide adequate representation in a fiscally sound manner,
87 while safeguarding constitutional principles. Therefore, an
88 office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel is
89 created within the geographic boundaries of each of ~~the~~ five
90 regions of the state ~~district courts of appeal~~. The regional
91 counsel shall be appointed as set forth in subsection (3) for
92 each of the five regional offices. For the purposes of an office
93 of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, the state is
94 divided into five geographic regions by judicial circuit as
95 follows:

96 (a) The first region consists of the first, second, third,
97 fourth, eighth, and fourteenth circuits.

98 (b) The second region consists of the sixth, tenth,
99 twelfth, thirteenth, and twentieth circuits.

100 (c) The third region consists of the eleventh and

101 sixteenth circuits.

102 (d) The fourth region consists of the fifteenth,
 103 seventeenth, and nineteenth circuits.

104 (e) The fifth region consists of the fifth, seventh,
 105 ninth, and eighteenth circuits.

106 Section 4. Effective July 1, 2022, subsection (34) of
 107 section 34.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

108 34.022 Number of county court judges for each county.—The
 109 number of county court judges in each county shall be as
 110 follows:

111 COUNTY	TOTAL
112 (34) Lake.....	43

113 Section 5. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.01,
 114 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

115 35.01 District courts of appeal; districts.—~~Six~~ Five
 116 district courts of appeal are created, and the state is divided
 117 into six ~~five~~ appellate districts of contiguous circuits.

118 Section 6. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.02,
 119 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120 35.02 First Appellate District.—The First Appellate
 121 District is composed of the First, Second, Third, ~~Fourth,~~
 122 Eighth, and Fourteenth Judicial Circuits.

123 Section 7. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.03,
 124 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

125 35.03 Second Appellate District.—The Second Appellate

126 District is composed of the Ninth ~~Sixth~~, Tenth, ~~Twelfth~~,
 127 ~~Thirteenth~~, and Twentieth Judicial Circuits.

128 Section 8. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.043,
 129 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

130 35.043 Fifth Appellate District.—The Fifth Appellate
 131 District is composed of the Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, ~~Ninth~~, and
 132 Eighteenth Judicial Circuits.

133 Section 9. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.044,
 134 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

135 35.044 Sixth Appellate District.—The Sixth Appellate
 136 District is composed of the Sixth, Twelfth, and Thirteenth
 137 Judicial Circuits.

138 Section 10. Effective January 1, 2023, subsection (1) of
 139 section 35.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

140 35.05 Headquarters.—

141 (1) The headquarters of the First Appellate District shall
 142 be in the Second Judicial Circuit, Tallahassee, Leon County; of
 143 the Second Appellate District in the Tenth Judicial Circuit,
 144 Lakeland, Polk County; of the Third Appellate District in the
 145 Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County; of the Fourth
 146 Appellate District in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Palm Beach
 147 County; of and the Fifth Appellate District in the Seventh
 148 Judicial Circuit, Daytona Beach, Volusia County; and of the
 149 Sixth Appellate District in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Pinellas
 150 County.

151 Section 11. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.06,
 152 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

153 35.06 Organization of district courts of appeal.—A
 154 district court of appeal shall be organized in each of the six
 155 ~~five~~ appellate districts to be named District Court of Appeal,
 156 District. The number of judges of each district court of
 157 appeal shall be as follows:

- 158 (1) In the first district there shall be 13 ~~15~~ judges.
- 159 (2) In the second district there shall be 9 ~~16~~ judges.
- 160 (3) In the third district there shall be 10 judges.
- 161 (4) In the fourth district there shall be 12 judges.
- 162 (5) In the fifth district there shall be 12 ~~11~~ judges.
- 163 (6) In the sixth district there shall be 15 judges.

164 Section 12. Effective January 1, 2023, paragraph (b) of
 165 subsection (2) of section 440.45, Florida Statutes, is amended
 166 to read:

167 440.45 Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims.—
 168 (2)

169 (b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), the Governor
 170 shall appoint a judge of compensation claims from a list of
 171 three persons nominated by a statewide nominating commission.
 172 The statewide nominating commission shall be composed of the
 173 following:

- 174 1. Six ~~Five~~ members, at least one of whom must be a member
 175 of a minority group as defined in s. 288.703, one of each who

176 resides in each of the territorial jurisdictions of the district
177 courts of appeal, appointed by the Board of Governors of The
178 Florida Bar from among The Florida Bar members ~~who are~~ engaged
179 in the practice of law. ~~The Board of Governors shall appoint~~
180 ~~members who reside in the odd-numbered district court of appeal~~
181 ~~jurisdictions to 4-year terms each, beginning July 1, 1999, and~~
182 ~~members who reside in the even-numbered district court of appeal~~
183 ~~jurisdictions to 2-year terms each, beginning July 1, 1999.~~

184 ~~Thereafter,~~ Each member shall be appointed for a 4-year term;

185 2. Six ~~Five~~ electors, at least one of whom must be a
186 member of a minority group as defined in s. 288.703, one of each
187 who resides in each of the territorial jurisdictions of the
188 district courts of appeal, appointed by the Governor. ~~The~~
189 ~~Governor shall appoint members who reside in the odd-numbered~~
190 ~~district court of appeal jurisdictions to 2-year terms each,~~
191 ~~beginning July 1, 1999, and members who reside in the even-~~
192 ~~numbered district court of appeal jurisdictions to 4-year terms~~
193 ~~each, beginning July 1, 1999. Thereafter,~~ Each member shall be
194 appointed for a 4-year term; and

195 3. Six ~~Five~~ electors, at least one of whom must be a
196 member of a minority group as defined in s. 288.703, one of each
197 who resides in the territorial jurisdictions of the district
198 courts of appeal, selected and appointed by a majority vote of
199 the other 10 members of the commission. ~~A majority of the other~~
200 ~~members of the commission shall appoint members who reside in~~

201 ~~the odd-numbered district court of appeal jurisdictions to 2-~~
202 ~~year terms each, beginning October 1, 1999, and members who~~
203 ~~reside in the even-numbered district court of appeal~~
204 ~~jurisdictions to 4-year terms each, beginning October 1, 1999.~~
205 ~~Thereafter,~~ Each member shall be appointed for a 4-year term.

206
207 A vacancy occurring on the commission shall be filled by the
208 original appointing authority for the unexpired balance of the
209 term. An ~~No~~ attorney who appears before any judge of
210 compensation claims more than four times a year is not eligible
211 to serve on the statewide nominating commission. The meetings
212 and determinations of the nominating commission as to the judges
213 of compensation claims shall be open to the public.

214 Section 13. No judicial vacancy may be deemed to occur as
215 a result of the addition of a sixth appellate district or
216 district realignment under this act. Effective January 1, 2023,
217 a current district court of appeal judge residing in a county,
218 the district of which is realigned under this act, shall be a
219 district court of appeal judge of the new district where he or
220 she resides.

221 Section 14. Notwithstanding the amendments made to s.
222 35.05(1), Florida Statutes, by this act, until the Sixth
223 Appellate District occupies the courthouse authorized in proviso
224 accompanying Specific Appropriation 3147A of chapter law 2021-
225 36, Laws of Florida, the district headquarters may be located in

226 | the Thirteenth Judicial circuit, Hillsborough County.

227 | Section 15. To effectuate the changes in judicial
 228 | nominating commissions necessitated by the creation of the Sixth
 229 | District Court of Appeal and the realignment of the
 230 | jurisdictional boundaries of other district courts of appeal:

231 | (1) Each member of the first, second, and fifth district
 232 | court of appeal judicial nominating commissions on the date this
 233 | act becomes law shall continue to serve the same term of office,
 234 | but the member's seat is transferred to the nominating
 235 | commission for the district, as the district is composed
 236 | effective January 1, 2023, in which he or she resides.

237 | (2) Each expired term or vacancy on a commission shall be
 238 | filled by appointment in the same manner as the vacancy of the
 239 | member whose position is being filled.

240 | (3) Each applicable judicial nominating commission shall
 241 | complete the application, interview, and nomination process for
 242 | any new district court of appeal judgeships authorized in this
 243 | act and funded in the fiscal year 2022-23 General Appropriations
 244 | Act by November 3, 2022, notwithstanding that the new judgeship
 245 | is not effective until January 1, 2023.

246 | Section 16. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
 247 | act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.