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2 An act relating to judicial nominating  
3 commissions; amending s. 43.29, F.S.; deleting  
4 requirement for appointment based upon race or  
5 gender and requiring consideration of those  
6 factors in making appointments; providing for  
7 the judicial nominating commission of a  
8 judicial circuit to include among its members  
9 and electors at least one resident from each  
10 county within the judicial circuit; providing  
11 an effective date.  
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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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15 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 43.29, Florida  
16 Statutes, is amended and subsection (4) is added to that  
17 section to read:

18 43.29 Judicial nominating commissions.--

19 (1) Each judicial nominating commission shall be  
20 composed of the following:

21 (a) Three members, ~~at least one of whom must be a~~  
22 ~~member of a racial or ethnic minority group or a woman,~~  
23 appointed by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar from  
24 among The Florida Bar members who are actively engaged in the  
25 practice of law with offices within the territorial  
26 jurisdiction of the affected court, or in the district or  
27 circuit;

28 (b) Three electors, ~~at least one of whom must be a~~  
29 ~~member of a racial or ethnic minority group or a woman,~~ who  
30 reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the court or in the  
31 circuit appointed by the Governor; and

1           (c) ~~Three electors, at least one of whom must be a~~  
2 ~~member of a racial or ethnic minority group or a woman, who~~  
3 reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the court or in the  
4 circuit and who are not members of the bar of Florida,  
5 selected and appointed by a majority vote of the other six  
6 members of the commission.

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8 The appointing authorities shall consider whether the existing  
9 commission members, together with potential appointees,  
10 reflect the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity, as well as  
11 the geographic distribution, of the population within the  
12 territorial jurisdiction of the court for which they are  
13 making nominations.

14           (4) The judicial nominating commission for each of the  
15 twenty judicial circuits must include among its members and  
16 electors at least one resident from each county within the  
17 judicial circuit. This subsection shall apply only to members  
18 or electors appointed on or after July 1, 1998.

19           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.  
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