A bill to be entitled An act relating to judicial nominating commissions; amending s. 43.29, F.S.; deleting a requirement for appointment based upon race or gender and requiring consideration of those factors in making appointments; providing for the judicial nominating commission of a judicial circuit to include among its members and electors at least one resident from each county within the judicial circuit; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 43.29, Florida Statutes, is amended and subsection (4) is added to that section to read:

43.29 Judicial nominating commissions.--18

- (1) Each judicial nominating commission shall be composed of the following:
- (a) Three members, at least one of whom must be a member of a racial or ethnic minority group or a woman, appointed by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar from among The Florida Bar members who are actively engaged in the practice of law with offices within the territorial jurisdiction of the affected court, or in the district or circuit;
- (b) Three electors, at least one of whom must be a member of a racial or ethnic minority group or a woman, who reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the court or in the 31 circuit appointed by the Governor; and

1 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 circuit and who are not members of the bar of Florida, 4 5 selected and appointed by a majority vote of the other six members of the commission. 6 7 8 The appointing authorities shall consider whether the existing 9 commission members, together with potential appointees, reflect the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity, as well as 10 11 the geographic distribution, of the population within the 12 territorial jurisdiction of the court for which they are 13 making nominations. The judicial nominating commission for each of the 14 twenty judicial circuits must include among its members and 15 16 electors at least one resident from each county within the 17 judicial circuit. This subsection shall apply only to members or electors appointed on or after July 1, 1999. 18 19 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999. 20 ************ 21 22 SENATE SUMMARY Modifies existing criteria for the composition of judicial nominating commissions. Deletes the requirement that appointments be based on race or gender, but requires that consideration of such factors be considered 23 24 in making appointments. Requires the judicial nomination commission in each judicial circuit to include among its members and electors at least one resident from each county within the circuit. 25 26 27 28 29 30 31