

By Senator Simmons

9-01212-18

20181412\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Office of the Judges of  
3           Compensation Claims; amending s. 440.45, F.S.;  
4           revising the duration of the initial term of a judge  
5           of compensation claims; specifying the duration of  
6           each subsequent term of appointment; specifying the  
7           salaries of full-time judges of compensation claims  
8           and the Deputy Chief Judge; requiring salaries to be  
9           paid out of the Workers' Compensation Administration  
10          Trust Fund; providing an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14           Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
15           440.45, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (f) is added  
16           to that subsection, to read:

17           440.45 Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims.—

18           (2)

19           (c) Each judge of compensation claims shall be appointed  
20           for a term of 6 4 years, with each subsequent term of  
21           appointment being for a term of 4 years. A judge of compensation  
22           claims, but during the term of office, may be removed by the  
23           Governor for cause. Before ~~Prior to~~ the expiration of a judge's  
24           term of office, the statewide nominating commission shall review  
25           the judge's conduct and determine whether the judge's  
26           performance is satisfactory. Effective July 1, 2002, in  
27           determining whether a judge's performance is satisfactory, the  
28           commission shall consider the extent to which the judge has met  
29           the requirements of this chapter, including, but not limited to,

9-01212-18

20181412\_\_

30 the requirements of ss. 440.25(1) and (4)(a)-(e), 440.34(2), and  
31 440.442. If the judge's performance is deemed satisfactory, the  
32 commission shall report its finding to the Governor no later  
33 than 6 months before ~~prior to~~ the expiration of the judge's term  
34 of office. The Governor shall review the commission's report and  
35 may reappoint the judge for an additional 4-year term. If the  
36 Governor does not reappoint the judge, the Governor shall inform  
37 the commission. The judge shall remain in office until the  
38 Governor has appointed a successor judge in accordance with  
39 paragraphs (a) and (b). If a vacancy occurs during a judge's  
40 unexpired term, the statewide nominating commission does not  
41 find the judge's performance is satisfactory, or the Governor  
42 does not reappoint the judge, the Governor shall appoint a  
43 successor judge for a term of 4 years in accordance with  
44 paragraph (b).

45 (f) All full-time judges of compensation claims shall  
46 receive a salary equal to that of a county court judge. The  
47 Deputy Chief Judge shall receive a salary of \$1,000 more per  
48 year than the salary paid to a full-time judge of compensation  
49 claims. The salaries for the judges of compensation claims must  
50 be paid out of the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust  
51 Fund established under s. 440.50.

52 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.