

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [CS/CS/HB 625](#)

TITLE: Justice Administrative Commission

SPONSOR(S): Baker

COMPANION BILL: [CS/CS/SB 758](#) (Bradley)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 110 Y's 0 N's

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Pending

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill increases the membership of the Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) from four members to seven members, and revises the composition of the JAC by:

- Adding an additional state attorney appointment.
- Adding one appointment for a criminal defense attorney who is not employed by the government and who has contracted with the JAC to provide court-appointed representation within the five years preceding his or her appointment, who is appointed by the president of The Florida Bar Board of Governors.
- Adding one appointment for a judge or senior judge serving on a court, who is appointed by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill increases the [membership](#) of the [Justice Administrative Commission](#) (JAC) from four members to seven members, and revises the composition of the JAC as follows:

- Increases the number of state attorney appointments from two to three, who are appointed by the president of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association.
- Maintaining the current number of two public defender appointments, who are appointed by the president of the Florida Public Defender Association.
- Adding one appointment for a criminal defense attorney who is not employed by the government and who has contracted with the JAC to provide services pursuant to [s. 27.40, F.S.](#), within the five years preceding his or her appointment, who is appointed by the president of The Florida Bar Board of Governors.
- Adding one appointment for a judge or senior judge serving on a court, who is appointed by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. (Section [1](#))

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#))

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Justice Administrative Commission](#)

The Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) provides administrative services and assistance to each office of the state attorney, public defender, Capital Collateral Regional Counsel, Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, and the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office.¹ The JAC primarily provides services to such offices in the areas of

¹ [S. 43.16\(5\)\(a\), F.S.](#) The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office within the JAC provides oversight and technical assistance to local guardian ad litem offices within the various judicial circuits. A guardian ad litem is a person or an entity that is a fiduciary

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accounting, budget, financial services, and human resources.² Although the JAC provides such services, it does not supervise, direct, or control any of the offices that it serves.³

In addition to providing administrative services to specified governmental offices, the JAC also approves uniform contract forms that are used to procure the services of private attorneys who are appointed to represent indigent defendants, reviews the billing records submitted by such attorneys, and also disburses state funds to compensate such attorneys for their services.⁴

Membership

The current membership of the JAC is as follows:

- Two state attorneys, who are appointed by the president of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association.
- Two public defenders, who are appointed by the president of the Florida Public Defender Association.⁵

Members of the JAC, referred to as “Commissioners,” serve staggered, two-year terms.⁶ The Commissioners do not receive a salary, but may be reimbursed for necessary travel incident to official business.⁷ The Commissioners appoint an executive director, who is charged with oversight of staff necessary to efficiently and effectively carry out the JAC’s duties.⁸

Circuit Judges, State Attorneys, and Public Defenders

Florida is divided into twenty judicial circuits.⁹ A state attorney and a public defender are elected in each of the judicial circuits.¹⁰ The number of circuit judges for each judicial circuit is specified in [s. 26.031, F.S.](#), and determined through a procedure provided under article V, section 9 of the Florida Constitution.¹¹

Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel

The Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel (CCCRC) provides legal representation to indigent persons that are constitutionally entitled to court-appointed counsel.¹² When representing a defendant in a criminal case, the CCCRC performs similar functions to that of a traditional public defender. Examples of the types of cases for which the CCCRC provides representation include:

- Criminal cases in which the public defender must withdraw due to a conflict of interest;
- Dependency cases; and
- Involuntary civil commitment cases involving a mentally ill person, sexually violent predator, or a person with developmental disabilities.¹³

There are five CCCRC offices in Florida which are aligned with judicial circuits as follows:

- First Region: First, second, third, fourth, eighth, and fourteenth judicial circuits.
- Second Region: Sixth, tenth, twelfth, thirteenth, and twentieth judicial circuits.
- Third Region: Eleventh and sixteenth judicial circuits.
- Fourth Region: Fifteenth, seventeenth, and nineteenth judicial circuits.

appointed by the court to represent a child in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding to which the child is a party, including cases where a child has been abused, abandoned, or neglected. [S. 39.01\(32\), F.S.](#)

² Justice Administrative Commission, *History of the Justice Administrative Commission*, [Justice Administrative Commission](#) (last visited Mar. 12, 2026).

³ *Id.*

⁴ [Ss. 27.40\(5\)](#) and [27.5304, F.S.](#)

⁵ [S. 43.16\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ [S. 43.16\(3\), F.S.](#)

⁸ [S. 43.16\(4\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁹ [S. 26.021, F.S.](#)

¹⁰ [Ss. 27.01](#) and [27.50 F.S.](#)

¹¹ [Art V, s. 9, Fla. Const.](#)

¹² [S. 27.511\(1\), F.S.](#)

¹³ [S. 27.511\(5\)](#) and [\(6\), F.S.](#)

- Fifth Region: Fifth, seventh, ninth, and eighteenth judicial circuits.¹⁴

A Regional Counsel for each of the five CCCRC offices is appointed by the Governor.¹⁵

Capital Collateral Regional Counsel

The Capital Collateral Regional Counsel represents each person who has been convicted and sentenced to death in collateral actions challenging the legality of the person's judgment and sentence of death.¹⁶ There are three Capital Collateral Regional Counsel offices in Florida as follows:

- Northern Region: First, second, third, eighth, and fourteenth judicial circuits.
- Middle Region: Fifth, sixth, seventh, ninth, tenth, twelfth, thirteenth, and eighteenth circuits.
- Southern Region: Eleventh, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, nineteenth, and twentieth judicial circuits.¹⁷

A Regional Counsel for each of the three Capital Collateral Regional Counsel offices is appointed by the Governor.¹⁸

OTHER RESOURCES:

[Florida Conference of Circuit Judges](#)

[Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association](#)

[Florida Public Defender Association](#)

¹⁴ [S. 27.511\(1\), F.S.](#)

¹⁵ [S. 27.511\(1\) and \(3\), F.S.](#)

¹⁶ [S. 27.701, F.S.](#)

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*