

20-3020. Judges; appointment by governor; consent of senate; time limitations; commencement of judges' duties; qualifications. (a) (1) On and after July 1, 2013, any vacancy occurring in the office of any judge of the court of appeals and any position to be open on the court of appeals as a result of enlargement of such court, or the retirement or failure of an incumbent to file such judge's declaration of candidacy to be retained in office as hereinafter required, or failure of a judge to be elected to be retained in office, shall be filled by appointment by the governor, with the consent of the senate, of a person possessing the qualifications of office.

(2) Whenever a vacancy occurs, will occur or position opens on the court of appeals, the clerk of the supreme court shall promptly give notice to the governor.

(3) In event of the failure of the governor to make the appointment within 60 days from the date such vacancy occurred or position became open, the chief justice of the supreme court, with the consent of the senate, shall make the appointment of a person possessing the qualifications of office.

(4) Whenever a vacancy in the office of judge of the court of appeals exists at the time the appointment to fill such vacancy is made pursuant to this section, the appointment shall be effective at the time it is made, but where an appointment is made pursuant to this section to fill a vacancy which will occur at a future date, such appointment shall not take effect until such date.

(b) No person appointed pursuant to subsection (a) shall assume the office of judge of the court of appeals until the senate, by an affirmative vote of the majority of all members of the senate then elected or appointed and qualified, consents to such appointment. The senate shall vote to consent to any such appointment not later than 60 days after such appointment is received by the senate. If the senate is not in session and will not be in session within the 60-day time limitation, the senate shall vote to consent to any such appointment not later than 20 days after the senate begins its next session. In the event a majority of the senate does not vote to consent to the appointment, the governor, within 60 days after the senate vote on the previous appointee, shall appoint another person possessing the qualifications of office and such subsequent appointment shall be considered by the senate in the same procedure as provided in this section. The same appointment and consent procedure shall be followed until a valid appointment has been made. No person who has been previously appointed but did not receive the consent of the senate shall be appointed again for the same vacancy. If the senate fails to vote on an appointment within the time limitation imposed by this subsection, the senate shall be deemed to have given consent to such appointment.

(c) Persons who are appointed as judges of the court of appeals pursuant to K.S.A. 20-3005, prior to its repeal, and this section, shall commence the duties of office upon appointment and consent, and each judge shall have all the rights, privileges, powers and duties prescribed by law for the office of judge of the court of appeals.

(d) Judges of the court of appeals shall possess the qualifications prescribed by law for justices of the supreme court.

History: L. 2013, ch. 1, § 1; July 1.