

20-2913. Same; vacancies prior to formation of nominating commission; new judgeships, appointment and term; return to partisan method. (a) If a vacancy occurs in the office of judge of the district court in a judicial district, subsequent to the general election at which the nonpartisan method of selection of judges of the district court was approved and prior to the time the district judicial nominating commission for the judicial district is constituted, the departmental justice for the judicial district shall provide, where necessary, for the assignment of one or more judges pursuant to K.S.A. 20-319, to serve in the judicial district until a judge shall be appointed to fill such vacancy pursuant to K.S.A. 20-2909, 20-2910 and 20-2911, and amendments thereto.

(b) Whenever the supreme court, pursuant to statute, certifies to the chairperson of the district judicial nominating commission in a judicial district that an additional judge and an additional division of the district court are needed in such judicial district, the chairperson shall call a meeting of the nominating commission for the purpose of nominating persons for appointment to the new judgeship. Nominations and the appointment of the judge shall be made in the manner prescribed by K.S.A. 20-2909, 20-2910 and 20-2911, and amendments thereto. The term of office of any judge so appointed shall commence on July 15 next following the date of certification of the need for an additional judge.

(c) Whenever the proposition of the method of selection of judges of the district court is resubmitted to the electors of a judicial district for the purpose of rejecting the same, as provided in subsection (e)[*]of K.S.A. 20-2901, and amendments thereto, and a majority of the votes cast and counted on such proposition is in favor of election of judges of the district court, the district judicial nominating commission in such judicial district shall be abolished on the date the results of the final canvass of votes is certified pursuant to subsection (f)** of K.S.A. 20-2901, and amendments thereto. The rejection of nonpartisan selection of judges of the district court in a judicial district shall not affect the term of office of any person serving as judge of the district court in the judicial district at the time of the general election at which nonpartisan selection is rejected. The rejection of nonpartisan selection shall not affect the term of office of any person retained in office as judge of the district court at the election. If the electors of the judicial district also vote at the election against retaining in office any judge of the district court, the office of that judge shall become vacant on the second Monday in January next following the election, and the vacancy shall be filled in the manner provided by K.S.A. 25-312a.

History: L. 1974, ch. 137, § 13; L. 1975, ch. 183, § 3; L. 1976, ch. 145, § 105; L. 1982, ch. 130, § 18; Feb. 25.

* Reference should be to subsection (f).

** Reference should be to subsection (g).