As Amended by Senate Committee
Session of 2013

SENATE BILL No. 8

By Senator King

AN ACT concerning judicial appointments; creating the Kansas commission on judicial qualifications nominations; relating to senate confirmation; amending K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 75-4319 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) There is hereby created the Kansas commission on judicial qualifications nominations. The commission shall be composed of seven members, appointed as follows:

(1) Two non-lawyer members appointed by the speaker of the house;
(2) one non-lawyer member appointed by the minority leader of the house;
(3) one non-lawyer member appointed by the state treasurer;
(4) one lawyer member appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;
(5) one lawyer member appointed by the attorney general; and
(6) one retired district judge appointed by the Kansas county and district attorneys association.

(b) Members shall be appointed for terms of two years. All members may be reappointed. Members shall serve without salary, but may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

(c) The commission shall elect from its membership a chairperson who shall serve in such capacity for two years and until their successor has been elected.

(d) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum to do business, but no final action shall be taken except upon a vote of the majority of the members of the commission. The commission shall not be subject to the open meetings act, K.S.A. 75-4317 through 75-4320a, and amendments thereto. The commission, in accordance with K.S.A. 75-4319, and amendments thereto, may recess for a closed or executive meeting when it is considering confidential information related to the appointee’s qualifications for office. Any confidential documents or other confidential information obtained by the commission shall be privileged and confidential, shall not be a public record and shall not be subject to discovery or subpoena in a civil or criminal action.
(e) Whenever the governor or the chief justice of the supreme court makes an appointment to the position of justice of the supreme court or judge of the court of appeals, subject to senate confirmation, the commission shall hold a meeting to interview such appointee within 30 days after the appointment is made. The commission shall obtain any information related to the appointee's qualifications for office that the commission deems necessary. The commission shall prepare a written report of its assessment of the appointee's qualifications for office. A majority of the commission shall approve the written report and submit such report to the president of the senate and the chairperson of the judiciary committee of the senate not later than 30 days after the appointment is made.

New Sec. 2. (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, all appointments to the position of justice of the supreme court or judge of the court of appeals made by the governor or the chief justice of the supreme court, which are subject to senate confirmation, may be considered and acted upon by the senate in either executive or regular session except that no final action thereon may be taken in executive session.

(b) When any appointment described in subsection (a) is received by the senate, such appointment shall be referred to the judiciary committee of the senate by the president of the senate immediately after the written report concerning such appointment is received from the Kansas commission on judicial qualifications or, if no written report is received within the time specified in section 1, and amendments thereto, on the next legislative day following the last day of the period of time specified for submission of such report in section 1, and amendments thereto.

(c) Such appointment referred to the judiciary committee shall be returned to the senate within 15 legislative days after the same are referred, together with a report thereon. If the appointment is not returned to the senate within the period of time specified for its return, the appointment shall be considered to be returned to the senate without recommendation on the next legislative day following the last day of the period of time specified for its return.

(d) Any such appointment may be considered and acted upon by the senate at any time after the appointment is returned to the senate. No motion to confirm any such appointment shall be in order without the unanimous consent of the senate until the appointment is returned to the senate.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 75-4319 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-4319. (a) Upon formal motion made, seconded and carried, all bodies and agencies subject to the open meetings act may recess, but not adjourn, open meetings for closed or executive meetings. Any motion to recess for a closed or executive meeting shall include a statement of
(1) the justification for closing the meeting, (2) the subjects to be discussed during the closed or executive meeting and (3) the time and place at which the open meeting shall resume. Such motion, including the required statement, shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and shall be maintained as a part of the permanent records of the body or agency. Discussion during the closed or executive meeting shall be limited to those subjects stated in the motion.

(b) No subjects shall be discussed at any closed or executive meeting, except the following:

   (1) Personnel matters of nonelected personnel;
   (2) consultation with an attorney for the body or agency which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship;
   (3) matters relating to employer-employee negotiations whether or not in consultation with the representative or representatives of the body or agency;
   (4) confidential data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, trusts, and individual proprietorships;
   (5) matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a person as a student, patient or resident of a public institution, except that any such person shall have the right to a public hearing if requested by the person;
   (6) preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property;
   (7) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 74-8804, and amendments thereto;
   (8) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to subsection (d)(1) of K.S.A. 38-2212, and amendments thereto, or subsection (e) of K.S.A. 38-2213, and amendments thereto;
   (9) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to subsection (j) of K.S.A. 22a-243, and amendments thereto;
   (10) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to subsection (e) of K.S.A. 44-596, and amendments thereto;
   (11) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to subsection (g) of K.S.A. 39-7,119, and amendments thereto;
   (12) matters required to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to a tribal-state gaming compact;
   (13) matters relating to security measures, if the discussion of such matters at an open meeting would jeopardize such security measures, that protect: (A) Systems, facilities or equipment used in the production,
transmission or distribution of energy, water or communications services; (B) transportation and sewer or wastewater treatment systems, facilities or equipment; (C) a public body or agency, public building or facility or the information system of a public body or agency; or (D) private property or persons, if the matter is submitted to the agency for purposes of this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph, security means measures that protect against criminal acts intended to intimidate or coerce the civilian population, influence government policy by intimidation or coercion or to affect the operation of government by disruption of public services, mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping. Security measures include, but are not limited to, intelligence information, tactical plans, resource deployment and vulnerability assessments;

(14) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to subsection (f) of K.S.A. 65-525, and amendments thereto;

(15) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 75-7427, and amendments thereto; and

(16) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 46-3801, and amendments thereto; and

(17) matters permitted to be discussed in a closed or executive meeting pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto.

(c) No binding action shall be taken during closed or executive recesses, and such recesses shall not be used as a subterfuge to defeat the purposes of this act.

(d) (1) Any confidential records or information relating to security measures provided or received under the provisions of subsection (b)(13), shall not be subject to subpoena, discovery or other demand in any administrative, criminal or civil action.

(2) (A) Except as otherwise provided by law, any confidential documents, records or reports relating to the prisoner review board provided or received under the provisions of subsection (b)(16) shall not be subject to subpoena, discovery or other demand in any administrative, criminal or civil action.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any summary statement provided or received under the provisions of subsection (b)(16) shall not be subject to subpoena, discovery or other demand in any administrative, criminal or civil action.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 75-4319 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after approval by the qualified electors of the state of a proposition to amend the
constitution of the state of Kansas by revising article 3 thereof and its publication in the statute book.