

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 17-0591.03 Jane Ritter x4342

**HOUSE BILL 17-1303**

---

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Wist and Lee, Van Winkle**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Gardner and Kagan, Cooke**

---

**House Committees**

Judiciary  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM, AND,**  
102 **IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill addresses issues related to the state commission on judicial performance and the various district commissions on judicial performance (state commission, district commissions, or collectively all commissions), including:

- ! Procedures and duties common to all commissions are combined in a more user-friendly fashion;

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
May 3, 2017

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
May 2, 2017

- ! The current membership of all commissions is left in place as-is until February 1, 2019, at which time all commission members must be reappointed. The structure for appointing members to all commissions is streamlined and, if an original appointing authority fails to fill a vacancy within 45 days, the governor shall make the new appointment.
- ! Duties of all commissions are streamlined, and both the state and multiple district commissions may work collaboratively to develop uniform judicial evaluation procedures and techniques, systemwide judicial training programs, and guidelines and procedures for the continuous collection of data for use in the judicial evaluation process;
- ! The state commission is tasked with developing surveys to provide to persons who are affected by justices and judges and to develop guidelines and procedures to make such surveys readily available to those persons. The state commission shall develop guidelines and procedures to provide attorneys, pro se litigants, and clients with accessible and timely opportunities to review the surveys.
- ! The bill adds senior, retired judges who have returned to temporary judicial duties per contract with the judicial department, as allowed by statute, to the list of judges that commissions are to evaluate;
- ! Judicial performance evaluation criteria is retained, as is the requirement for all commissions to perform election-retention-year evaluations as well as initial and interim evaluations. Narratives and recommendations stemming from such evaluations are still required, and the option to develop an individual improvement plan for a judge who receives a "does not meet performance standard" recommendation is authorized.
- ! The state commission is required to gather and maintain statewide data and post a report of the data on its website at least 30 days prior to each retention election; and
- ! Beginning in January 2019, and every 2 years thereafter, the judicial department shall include a summary of the commissions' activities in the department's "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act" presentation to the joint judicial committee.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**

1     **with amendments**, article 5.5 of title 13 as follows:

2   **ARTICLE 5.5**

3   **Commissions on Judicial Performance**

4                     **13-5.5-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE  
5 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE:

6                     (a) A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION SYSTEM OF JUDICIAL  
7 PERFORMANCE;

8                     (b) INFORMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF COLORADO REGARDING THE  
9 PERFORMANCE OF JUDGES, JUSTICES, AND SENIOR JUDGES THROUGHOUT  
10 THE STATE; AND

11                    (c) TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR JUDGES, JUSTICES,  
12 AND SENIOR JUDGES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF COLORADO.

13                    (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES  
14 THAT IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND IS A MATTER OF STATEWIDE  
15 CONCERN TO:

16                    (a) PROVIDE JUDGES, JUSTICES, AND SENIOR JUDGES WITH USEFUL  
17 INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR OWN PERFORMANCES, ALONG WITH  
18 TRAINING RESOURCES TO IMPROVE JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE AS  
19 NECESSARY;

20                    (b) ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF EVALUATING  
21 JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE TO PROVIDE PERSONS VOTING ON THE RETENTION  
22 OF JUDGES, JUSTICES, AND SENIOR JUDGES WITH FAIR, RESPONSIBLE, AND  
23 CONSTRUCTIVE INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUAL JUDICIAL  
24 PERFORMANCE;

25                    (c) ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT OFFICE ON JUDICIAL  
26 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION WITH FULL AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE  
27 PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE 5.5; AND

1 (d) CONDUCT STATEWIDE JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS,  
2 AS WELL AS JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS WITHIN EACH JUDICIAL  
3 DISTRICT, USING UNIFORM CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES PURSUANT TO THE  
4 PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE 5.5.

5 **13-5.5-102. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE 5.5, UNLESS  
6 THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (1) "ATTORNEY" MEANS A PERSON ADMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW  
8 BEFORE THE COURTS OF THIS STATE.

9 (2) "COMMISSION" MEANS BOTH THE STATE AND DISTRICT  
10 COMMISSIONS ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE, ESTABLISHED IN SECTION  
11 13-5.5-104, UNLESS THE USAGE OTHERWISE SPECIFIES THE STATE  
12 COMMISSION OR A DISTRICT COMMISSION.

13 (3) "COMMISSIONER" MEANS AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE  
14 STATE COMMISSION OR ONE OF THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONS ON JUDICIAL  
15 PERFORMANCE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 13-5.5-104.

16 (4) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

17 (5) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
18 THE OFFICE ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CREATED IN SECTION  
19 13-5.5-103.

20 (6) "FUND" MEANS THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL  
21 PERFORMANCE CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.5-115.

22 (7) "IMPROVEMENT PLAN" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL JUDICIAL  
23 IMPROVEMENT PLAN DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO  
24 SECTION 13-5.5-110.

25 (8) "INTERIM EVALUATION" MEANS AN INTERIM EVALUATION  
26 CONDUCTED BY A COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-109 DURING  
27 A FULL TERM OF OFFICE OF A JUSTICE OR JUDGE.

1           (9) "JUDGE" INCLUDES ALL ACTIVE AND SENIOR JUDGES, AS  
2           DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (12) OF THIS SECTION.

3           (10) "JUSTICE" MEANS A JUSTICE SERVING ON THE SUPREME COURT  
4           OF COLORADO.

5           (11) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
6           EVALUATION CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.5-103.

7           (12) "RETENTION YEAR EVALUATION" MEANS A JUDICIAL  
8           PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CONDUCTED BY A COMMISSION PURSUANT TO  
9           SECTION 13-5.5-108 OF A JUSTICE OR JUDGE WHOSE TERM IS TO EXPIRE  
10          AND WHO MUST STAND FOR RETENTION ELECTION.

11          (13) "SENIOR JUDGE" MEANS A RETIRED JUDGE WHO HAS  
12          RETURNED TO TEMPORARY JUDICIAL DUTIES PURSUANT TO SECTION  
13          24-51-1105.

14          (14) "VOLUNTEER COURTROOM OBSERVER PROGRAM" MEANS A  
15          SYSTEMWIDE PROGRAM COMPRISED OF VOLUNTEERS WHO PROVIDE  
16          COURTROOM OBSERVATION REPORTS FOR USE BY STATE AND DISTRICT  
17          COMMISSIONS IN JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS. THE STATE  
18          COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES FOR  
19          THE VOLUNTEER COURTROOM OBSERVER PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION  
20          13-5.5-105 (2)(i).

21                 **13-5.5-103. Office on judicial performance evaluation -**  
22                 **executive director - duties - oversight.** (1) THE OFFICE ON JUDICIAL  
23                 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION IS ESTABLISHED IN THE JUDICIAL  
24                 DEPARTMENT. THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE,  
25                 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-104, SHALL OVERSEE THE  
26                 OFFICE.

27                 (2) THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE

1 DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVES AT THE  
2 PLEASURE OF THE STATE COMMISSION. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
3 COMPENSATION IS THE SAME AS THAT WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
4 ESTABLISHES FOR A JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT. THE STATE  
5 COMMISSION SHALL NOT REDUCE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
6 COMPENSATION DURING THE TIME THAT HE OR SHE SERVES AS EXECUTIVE  
7 DIRECTOR. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL HIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR  
8 THE OFFICE AS NECESSARY AND AS APPROVED BY THE STATE COMMISSION.

9 (3) SUBJECT TO THE STATE COMMISSION'S SUPERVISION, THE  
10 OFFICE SHALL:

11 (a) STAFF THE STATE AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONS WHEN DIRECTED  
12 TO DO SO BY THE STATE COMMISSION;

13 (b) TRAIN STATE AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AS NEEDED AND  
14 REQUESTED;

15 (c) COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE DATA ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
16 EVALUATIONS, INCLUDING JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE SURVEYS DEVELOPED,  
17 COLLECTED, AND DISTRIBUTED, PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-105 (2);

18 (d) CONDUCT PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS CONCERNING THE  
19 JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROCESS AND THE  
20 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE STATE AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONS;

21 (e) MEASURE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
22 EVALUATION PROCESS THROUGH REGULAR POLLING; AND

23 (f) COMPLETE ANY OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED BY THE STATE  
24 COMMISSION.

25 (4) OFFICE EXPENSES ARE PAID FOR FROM THE STATE COMMISSION  
26 ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE CASH FUND CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
27 13-5.5-114.

1           **13-5.5-104. State commission on judicial performance -**  
2           **district commissions on judicial performance - established -**  
3           **membership - terms - immunity - conflicts - repeal. (1)** THE STATE

4 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE IS ESTABLISHED, AND A DISTRICT  
5 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE IS ESTABLISHED IN EACH  
6 JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE. IN APPOINTING THE MEMBERSHIP OF  
7 EACH COMMISSION, THE APPOINTING ENTITIES MUST, TO THE EXTENT  
8 PRACTICABLE, INCLUDE PERSONS FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE OR  
9 JUDICIAL DISTRICT AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND TAKE INTO  
10 CONSIDERATION RACE, GENDER, AND THE ETHNIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE  
11 OR DISTRICT. JUSTICES AND JUDGES ACTIVELY PERFORMING JUDICIAL  
12 DUTIES MAY NOT BE APPOINTED TO SERVE ON A COMMISSION. FORMER  
13 JUSTICES AND JUDGES ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE APPOINTED AS ATTORNEY  
14 COMMISSIONERS; EXCEPT THAT A FORMER JUSTICE OR JUDGE MAY NOT BE  
15 ASSIGNED OR APPOINTED TO PERFORM JUDICIAL DUTIES WHILE SERVING ON  
16 A COMMISSION.

17           (2)(a) EACH COMMISSION CONSISTS OF TEN MEMBERS, APPOINTED  
18 AS FOLLOWS:

19           (I) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL  
20 APPOINT ONE ATTORNEY AND ONE NONATTORNEY;

21           (II) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE ATTORNEY  
22 AND ONE NONATTORNEY;

23           (III) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT ONE ATTORNEY AND TWO  
24 NONATTORNEYS; AND

25           (IV) THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL APPOINT  
26 ONE ATTORNEY AND TWO NONATTORNEYS.

27           (b) (I) THE TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED PRIOR TO THE

1 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION SHALL CONTINUE THROUGH JANUARY  
2 31, 2019.

3 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING THE TERM FOR WHICH THE COMMISSIONER  
4 WAS APPOINTED, THE GOVERNOR'S ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT TO A  
5 DISTRICT COMMISSION MADE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(III) OF THIS  
6 SECTION AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S TWO NONATTORNEY APPOINTMENTS TO  
7 A DISTRICT COMMISSION MADE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(IV) OF  
8 THIS SECTION EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31, 2019.

9 (III) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (2)(b)(II) OF THIS  
10 SECTION, THE TERM OF A COMMISSIONER APPOINTED PRIOR TO JANUARY  
11 31, 2019, SHALL CONTINUE AFTER THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED UNTIL  
12 SUCH TIME AS THE COMMISSIONER'S TERM WAS ORIGINALLY SET TO  
13 EXPIRE.

14 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31,  
15 2019.

16 (3) (a) THE STATE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF ELEVEN MEMBERS,  
17 APPOINTED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2019, AS FOLLOWS:

18 (I) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL  
19 APPOINT ONE ATTORNEY AND ONE NONATTORNEY;

20 (II) THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
21 SHALL APPOINT ONE NONATTORNEY;

22 (III) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE  
23 ATTORNEY AND ONE NONATTORNEY;

24 (IV) THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE  
25 NONATTORNEY;

26 (V) THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL APPOINT  
27 TWO ATTORNEYS; AND



1 (VI) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT TWO NONATTORNEYS AND  
2 ONE ATTORNEY.

3 (b) THE TERMS OF STATE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED PRIOR TO  
4 JANUARY 31, 2019, SHALL CONTINUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HIS OR HER  
5 TERM WAS ORIGINALLY SET TO EXPIRE; EXCEPT THAT THE TERM OF THE  
6 NONATTORNEY APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT  
7 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION EXPIRES ON  
8 JANUARY 31, 2019.

9 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (3) BECOMES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2019.

10 (4) (a) EACH DISTRICT COMMISSION CONSISTS OF TEN MEMBERS,  
11 APPOINTED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2019, AS FOLLOWS:

12 (I) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL  
13 APPOINT ONE ATTORNEY AND ONE NONATTORNEY;

14 (II) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE ATTORNEY  
15 AND ONE NONATTORNEY;

16 (III) THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
17 SHALL APPOINT ONE NONATTORNEY;

18 (IV) THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE  
19 NONATTORNEY;

20 (V) THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL APPOINT  
21 TWO ATTORNEYS; AND

22 (VI) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT TWO NONATTORNEYS.

23 (b) THE TERMS OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED PRIOR TO  
24 JANUARY 31, 2019, SHALL CONTINUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HIS OR HER  
25 TERM WAS ORIGINALLY SET TO EXPIRE; EXCEPT THAT THE FOLLOWING  
26 COMMISSIONERS' TERMS EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31, 2019:

27 (I) THE NONATTORNEY APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE

1 SUPREME COURT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION;

2 AND

3 (II) THE ATTORNEY APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR PURSUANT TO  
4 SUBSECTION (2)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION.

5 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (4) BECOMES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2019.

6 (5) (a) THE TERM FOR A COMMISSIONER IS FOUR YEARS AND  
7 EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 30 OF AN ODD-NUMBERED YEAR. THE TERM OF A  
8 COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO REPLACE A MEMBER AT THE END OF THE  
9 COMMISSIONER'S TERM BEGINS ON DECEMBER 1 OF THE SAME YEAR.

10 (b) THE ORIGINAL APPOINTING AUTHORITY SHALL FILL ANY  
11 VACANCY ON A COMMISSION, BUT A COMMISSIONER SHALL NOT SERVE  
12 MORE THAN TWO FULL TERMS INCLUDING ANY BALANCE REMAINING ON AN  
13 UNEXPIRED TERM IF THE INITIAL APPOINTMENT WAS TO FILL A VACANCY.  
14 WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER A VACANCY ARISES ON A COMMISSION, THE  
15 COMMISSION WITH THE VACANCY SHALL NOTIFY THE ORIGINAL  
16 APPOINTING AUTHORITY OF THE VACANCY. THE ORIGINAL APPOINTING  
17 AUTHORITY SHALL MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS  
18 AFTER THE DATE OF THE VACANCY. IF THE ORIGINAL APPOINTING  
19 AUTHORITY FAILS TO MAKE THE APPOINTMENT WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS  
20 AFTER THE DATE OF THE VACANCY, THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAKE THE  
21 APPOINTMENT.

22 (c) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY MAY REMOVE A COMMISSIONER  
23 WHOM HE OR SHE APPOINTED FOR CAUSE.

24 (6) EACH COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR EVERY TWO YEARS  
25 BY A VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

26 (7) STATE AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE  
27 STATE OR A DISTRICT COMMISSION ARE IMMUNE FROM SUIT IN ANY

1 ACTION, CIVIL OR CRIMINAL, BASED UPON OFFICIAL ACTS PERFORMED IN  
2 GOOD FAITH AS COMMISSIONERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OR A  
3 DISTRICT COMMISSION.

4 (8) A COMMISSIONER SHALL RECUSE HIMSELF OR HERSELF FROM  
5 AN EVALUATION OF THE PERSON WHO APPOINTED THE COMMISSIONER TO  
6 THE COMMISSION.

7

8 **13-5.5-105. Powers and duties of the state and district**  
9 **commissions - rules.** (1) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER POWERS  
10 CONFERRED OR DUTIES ASSIGNED UPON THE SEPARATE COMMISSIONS BY  
11 THIS ARTICLE 5.5, ALL COMMISSIONS HAVE THE FOLLOWING POWERS AND  
12 DUTIES:

13 (a) TO REVIEW ANY AVAILABLE CASE MANAGEMENT DATA AND  
14 STATISTICS PROVIDED BY THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR, THE STATE  
15 COMMISSION, AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONS RELATED TO INDIVIDUAL  
16 JUSTICES AND JUDGES;

17 (b) TO REVIEW WRITTEN JUDICIAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS  
18 AUTHORIZED BY JUSTICES AND JUDGES UNDER THE COMMISSION'S  
19 OVERSIGHT;

20 (c) TO COLLECT INFORMATION FROM COURTROOM OBSERVATION  
21 BY COMMISSIONERS OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES, AS WELL AS INFORMATION  
22 PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSIONS BY THE VOLUNTEER COURTROOM  
23 OBSERVER PROGRAM;

24 (d) TO INTERVIEW JUSTICES AND JUDGES UNDER THE COMMISSION'S  
25 OVERSIGHT AND TO ACCEPT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION FROM  
26 INTERESTED PERSONS AS NECESSARY, INCLUDING JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
27 SURVEYS;

1 (e) TOMAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AND PREPARE NARRATIVES THAT  
2 REFLECT THE RESULTS OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS OF JUSTICES AND  
3 JUDGES; AND

4 (f) AT AN INDIVIDUAL COMMISSION'S DISCRETION AFTER IT  
5 COMPLETES AN INTERIM EVALUATION OF A JUSTICE OR JUDGE PURSUANT  
6 TO SECTION 13-5.5-109, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CHIEF JUSTICE OR  
7 APPROPRIATE CHIEF JUDGE DEVELOP AN INDIVIDUAL JUDICIAL  
8 IMPROVEMENT PLAN PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-110;

9 (2) IN ADDITION TO OTHER POWERS CONFERRED AND DUTIES  
10 IMPOSED UPON THE STATE COMMISSION BY THIS ARTICLE 5.5 AND SECTION  
11 13-5.5-106, THE STATE COMMISSION HAS THE FOLLOWING POWERS AND  
12 DUTIES:

13 (a) TO APPOINT AND SUPERVISE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
14 OFFICE ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION;

15 (b) TO ASSIST THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN MANAGING THE OFFICE  
16 AND PROVIDING FISCAL OVERSIGHT OF THE OFFICE'S OPERATING BUDGET;

17 (c) TO REVIEW DATA, PREPARE NARRATIVES, AND MAKE  
18 RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO INDIVIDUAL SUPREME COURT JUSTICES  
19 AND JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS  
20 13-5.5-108 AND 13-5.5-109;

21 (d) (I) TO DEVELOP SURVEYS FOR PERSONS AFFECTED BY JUSTICES  
22 AND JUDGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ATTORNEYS; JURORS;  
23 REPRESENTED AND UNREPRESENTED LITIGANTS; LAW ENFORCEMENT  
24 PERSONNEL; ATTORNEYS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' AND PUBLIC  
25 DEFENDERS' OFFICES; EMPLOYEES OF THE COURT; COURT INTERPRETERS;  
26 EMPLOYEES OF PROBATION OFFICES; EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL DEPARTMENTS  
27 OF SOCIAL SERVICES; AND VICTIMS OF CRIMES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION

1 24-4.1-302 (5);

2 (II) TO DEVELOP RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES TO MAKE  
3 THE RESULTS OF SURVEYS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION  
4 (2)(d) READILY AVAILABLE TO ALL PARTIES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION  
5 (2)(d)(I) OF THIS SECTION;

6 (III) TO DEVELOP RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES TO  
7 PROVIDE ATTORNEYS, PRO SE LITIGANTS, AND CLIENTS WITH ACCESSIBLE  
8 AND TIMELY OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW THE SURVEYS DEVELOPED  
9 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(d); AND

10 (IV) TO DEVELOP RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES TO MAKE  
11 THE SURVEYS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(d) AND ANY  
12 AVAILABLE SURVEY REPORTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC;

13 (e) TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF COMPLETED SURVEYS  
14 DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2), REPORT TO THE DISTRICT  
15 COMMISSIONS ON THE VALIDITY OF THE SURVEYS FOR THEIR DISTRICTS,  
16 AND PREPARE ALTERNATIVES TO SURVEYS WHERE SAMPLE POPULATIONS  
17 ARE INADEQUATE TO PRODUCE VALID RESULTS;

18 (f) TO PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE SURVEY REPORTS AND PUBLIC  
19 NARRATIVES THAT REFLECT THE RESULTS OF EACH JUDICIAL  
20 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION;

21 (g) TO DEVELOP RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES FOR THE  
22 REVIEW OF THE DELIBERATION PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE  
23 DISTRICT COMMISSIONS; EXCEPT THAT THE STATE COMMISSION DOES NOT  
24 HAVE THE POWER OR DUTY TO REVIEW ACTUAL DETERMINATIONS MADE  
25 BY A DISTRICT COMMISSION;

26 (h) TO PROMULGATE RULES PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-106  
27 CONCERNING;

1 (I) THE EVALUATION OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES BASED ON  
2 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SECTION 13-5.5-107;

3 (II) THE CREATION OF A STANDARDS MATRIX RELATED TO THE  
4 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SECTION 13-5.5-107  
5 AND A CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF THE THRESHOLDS FOR THE  
6 RECOMMENDATIONS OF "MEETS PERFORMANCE STANDARD" OR "DOES NOT  
7 MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARD" AND HOW THAT INFORMATION WILL BE  
8 MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; AND

9 (III) THE CONTINUOUS COLLECTION OF DATA FOR USE IN THE  
10 EVALUATION PROCESS, INCLUDING SURVEYS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO  
11 SUBSECTION (2)(d) OF THIS SECTION;

12 (i) TO DEVELOP RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES  
13 CONCERNING A SYSTEMWIDE JUDICIAL TRAINING PROGRAM AND A  
14 SYSTEMWIDE VOLUNTEER COURTROOM OBSERVER PROGRAM; AND

15 (j) TO PREPARE A REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-114.

16 (3) IN ADDITION TO OTHER POWERS CONFERRED AND DUTIES  
17 IMPOSED UPON A DISTRICT COMMISSION BY THIS ARTICLE 5.5, IN  
18 CONFORMITY WITH THE RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED  
19 BY THE STATE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-106 AND THE  
20 STATE COMMISSION'S REVIEW OF THE DELIBERATION PROCEDURES  
21 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, EACH DISTRICT  
22 COMMISSION HAS THE FOLLOWING POWERS AND DUTIES:

23 (a) TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM PARTIES AND ATTORNEYS  
24 REGARDING JUDGES' HANDLING OF CASES WITH RESPECT TO THE JUDGES'  
25 FAIRNESS, PATIENCE WITH PRO SE PARTIES, GENDER NEUTRALITY, RACIAL  
26 DISPARITY, AND HANDLING OF EMOTIONAL PARTIES;

27 (b) TO REVIEW DATA, PREPARE NARRATIVES, AND MAKE

1 EVALUATIONS RELATED TO JUDGES PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF  
2 SECTIONS 13-5.5-108 AND 13-5.5-109; AND

3 (c) UPON COMPLETING THE REQUIRED RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
4 NARRATIVES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, TO COLLECT  
5 ALL DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING ALL SURVEYS AND  
6 COPIES, RECEIVED REGARDING EACH JUDGE WHO WAS EVALUATED AND  
7 FORWARD SUCH DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION TO THE STATE  
8 COMMISSION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.

9 (4) UNLESS RECUSED PURSUANT TO A PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE  
10 5.5, EACH COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONS HAS  
11 THE DISCRETION TO EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF A JUSTICE OR JUDGE  
12 UNDER THE COMMISSION'S OVERSIGHT AND VOTE AS TO WHETHER THE  
13 JUSTICE OR JUDGE MEETS THE PERFORMANCE STANDARD BASED UPON THE  
14 COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW OF ALL OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE  
15 COMMISSION.

16 **13-5.5-106. Rules, guidelines, and procedures.** (1) THE STATE  
17 COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES AS  
18 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AND EFFECTUATE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
19 ARTICLE 5.5, INCLUDING RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES  
20 GOVERNING THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONS.

21 (2) THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER PROPOSED RULES,  
22 GUIDELINES, OR PROCEDURES FROM THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT; EXCEPT  
23 THAT NOTHING IN THIS SECTION REQUIRES THE STATE COMMISSION TO  
24 SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT. THE STATE  
25 COMMISSION RETAINS THE AUTHORITY FOR THE ADOPTION OF FINAL RULES,  
26 GUIDELINES, OR PROCEDURES. THE STATE COMMISSION MAY, AT ITS  
27 DISCRETION AND WITHIN EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS AND RESOURCES,

1     RETAIN INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL TO REVIEW ANY RULES,  
2     GUIDELINES, OR PROCEDURES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION OR  
3     SECTION 13-5.5-105.

4             (3) THE STATE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT RULES, GUIDELINES, OR  
5     PROCEDURES THAT PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO COMMISSIONERS REGARDING  
6     THE REVIEW OR INTERPRETATION OF INFORMATION OBTAINED AS A RESULT  
7     OF THE EVALUATION PROCESS AND THE CRITERIA CONTAINED IN SECTION  
8     13-5.5-107. ANY SUCH RULES, GUIDELINES, OR PROCEDURES MUST:

9             (a) TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE RELIABILITY OF SURVEY DATA  
10     AND BE CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 13-5.5-105; AND

11            (b) NOT DIVEST ANY COMMISSIONER OF HIS OR HER ULTIMATE  
12     AUTHORITY TO DECIDE WHETHER A JUSTICE OR JUDGE MEETS THE  
13     MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, AS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE AND  
14     DISTRICT COMMISSIONS.

15            (4) THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL POST A NOTICE OF THE  
16     PROPOSED RULE, GUIDELINE, OR PROCEDURE, ALLOW FOR A PERIOD FOR  
17     PUBLIC COMMENT, AND GIVE THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS  
18     THE STATE COMMISSION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED RULE, GUIDELINE, OR  
19     PROCEDURE AT A PUBLIC HEARING.

20            **13-5.5-107. Judicial performance evaluation criteria.** (1) THE  
21     STATE COMMISSION AND EACH DISTRICT COMMISSION SHALL EVALUATE  
22     EACH JUSTICE AND JUDGE IN COLORADO UTILIZING THE POWERS AND  
23     DUTIES CONFERRED UPON EACH COMMISSION IN SECTION 13-5.5-105. THE  
24     EVALUATIONS MUST ONLY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE  
25     EVALUATION CRITERIA:

26            (a) INTEGRITY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO WHETHER THE  
27     JUSTICE OR JUDGE:



1 (I) AVOIDS IMPROPRIETY OR THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY;

2 (II) DISPLAYS FAIRNESS AND IMPARTIALITY TOWARD ALL  
3 PARTICIPANTS; AND

4 (III) AVOIDS EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS;

5 (b) LEGAL KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
6 WHETHER THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE:

7 (I) DEMONSTRATES, THROUGH WELL-REASONED OPINIONS AND  
8 COURTROOM CONDUCT, AN UNDERSTANDING OF SUBSTANTIVE LAW AND  
9 RELEVANT RULES OF PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE;

10 (II) DEMONSTRATES, THROUGH WELL-REASONED OPINIONS AND  
11 COURTROOM CONDUCT, ATTENTIVENESS TO FACTUAL AND LEGAL ISSUES  
12 BEFORE THE COURT; AND

13 (III) ADHERES TO PRECEDENT OR CLEARLY EXPLAINS THE LEGAL  
14 BASIS FOR DEPARTURE FROM PRECEDENT AND APPROPRIATELY APPLIES  
15 STATUTES OR OTHER SOURCES OF LEGAL AUTHORITY;

16 (c) COMMUNICATION SKILLS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
17 WHETHER THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE:

18 (I) PRESENTS CLEARLY WRITTEN AND UNDERSTANDABLE OPINIONS,  
19 FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDERS;

20 (II) PRESENTS CLEARLY STATED AND UNDERSTANDABLE  
21 QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS DURING ORAL ARGUMENTS OR  
22 PRESENTATIONS, AND, FOR TRIAL JUDGES, CLEARLY EXPLAINS ALL ORAL  
23 DECISIONS; AND

24 (III) CLEARLY PRESENTS INFORMATION TO THE JURY, AS  
25 NECESSARY;

26 (d) JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
27 WHETHER THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE:

1 (I) DEMONSTRATES COURTESY TOWARD ATTORNEYS, LITIGANTS,  
2 COURT STAFF, AND OTHERS IN THE COURTROOM; AND

3 (II) MAINTAINS AND REQUIRES ORDER, PUNCTUALITY, AND  
4 APPROPRIATE DECORUM IN THE COURTROOM;

5 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE PERFORMANCE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED  
6 TO WHETHER THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE:

7 (I) DEMONSTRATES PREPARATION FOR ORAL ARGUMENTS, TRIALS,  
8 AND HEARINGS, AS WELL AS ATTENTIVENESS TO AND APPROPRIATE  
9 CONTROL OVER JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS;

10 (II) MANAGES WORKLOAD AND COURT TIME EFFECTIVELY AND  
11 EFFICIENTLY;

12 (III) ISSUES OPINIONS, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW,  
13 AND ORDERS IN A TIMELY MANNER AND WITHOUT UNNECESSARY DELAY;

14 (IV) PARTICIPATES IN A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE COURT'S  
15 WORKLOAD, TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR MORE THAN HIS OR HER OWN  
16 CASELOAD, AND IS WILLING TO ASSIST OTHER JUSTICES OR JUDGES; AND

17 (V) UNDERSTANDS AND COMPLIES, AS NECESSARY, WITH  
18 DIRECTIVES OF THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT; AND

19 (f) SERVICE TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC BY  
20 PARTICIPATING IN SERVICE-ORIENTED EFFORTS DESIGNED TO EDUCATE THE  
21 PUBLIC ABOUT THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND IMPROVE THE LEGAL SYSTEM.

22 **13-5.5-108. Judicial performance evaluations in retention**  
23 **election years - procedure - recommendations.** (1) JUDICIAL  
24 PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS FOR JUSTICES OR JUDGES WHOSE TERMS ARE  
25 TO EXPIRE AND WHO MUST STAND FOR RETENTION ELECTION ARE  
26 CONDUCTED AS FOLLOWS:

27 (a) THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT A JUDICIAL

1 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF EACH SUCH JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME  
2 COURT AND JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS; AND

3 (b) THE DISTRICT COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT A JUDICIAL  
4 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR EACH DISTRICT JUDGE AND COUNTY  
5 JUDGE.

6 (2) (a) THE APPLICABLE COMMISSION SHALL COMPLETE A  
7 RETENTION YEAR EVALUATION AND RELATED NARRATIVE TO BE  
8 COMMUNICATED TO THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE NO LATER THAN FORTY-FIVE  
9 DAYS PRIOR TO THE LAST DAY AVAILABLE FOR THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE TO  
10 DECLARE HIS OR HER INTENT TO STAND FOR RETENTION.

11 (b) THE NARRATIVE PREPARED FOR A RETENTION YEAR  
12 EVALUATION MUST INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S  
13 STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES WITH RESPECT TO THE JUDICIAL  
14 PERFORMANCE CRITERIA CONTAINED IN SECTION 13-5.5-107, A DISCUSSION  
15 REGARDING ANY DEFICIENCY IDENTIFIED IN AN INTERIM EVALUATION  
16 PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-109, A REVIEW OF ANY  
17 IMPROVEMENT PLAN DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-110, AND  
18 A STATEMENT OF WHETHER THE APPLICABLE COMMISSION CONCLUDES  
19 THAT ANY DEFICIENCY IDENTIFIED HAS BEEN SATISFACTORILY ADDRESSED,  
20 OR A STATEMENT FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE OR APPROPRIATE CHIEF JUDGE  
21 THAT AN IMPROVEMENT PLAN, IF ANY, WAS SATISFACTORILY FOLLOWED  
22 BY THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE.

23 (c) THE APPLICABLE COMMISSION SHALL GRANT EACH JUSTICE OR  
24 JUDGE WHO RECEIVES A RETENTION YEAR EVALUATION THE OPPORTUNITY  
25 TO MEET WITH THE COMMISSION OR OTHERWISE RESPOND TO THE  
26 EVALUATION NO LATER THAN TEN DAYS FOLLOWING HIS OR HER RECEIPT  
27 OF THE EVALUATION. IF THE MEETING IS HELD OR A RESPONSE IS MADE,

1 THE APPLICABLE COMMISSION MAY REVISE ITS EVALUATION.

2 (3) AFTER THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION  
3 ARE MET, THE APPLICABLE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION  
4 REGARDING THE PERFORMANCE OF EACH JUSTICE OR JUDGE WHO  
5 DECLARES HIS OR HER INTENT TO STAND FOR RETENTION. THE  
6 RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE STATED AS "MEETS PERFORMANCE  
7 STANDARD" OR "DOES NOT MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARD". FOR A  
8 JUSTICE OR JUDGE TO RECEIVE A DESIGNATION OF "DOES NOT MEET  
9 PERFORMANCE STANDARD", THERE MUST BE A MAJORITY VOTE BY THE  
10 COMMISSION MEMBERS THAT THE PARTICULAR JUSTICE OR JUDGE SHOULD  
11 RECEIVE SUCH A RECOMMENDATION.

12 (4) DISTRICT COMMISSIONS SHALL FORWARD RECOMMENDATIONS,  
13 NARRATIVES, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION, INCLUDING ANY  
14 COMPLETED JUDICIAL SURVEYS, TO THE STATE COMMISSION ACCORDING  
15 TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 13-5.5-105.

16 (5) THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL RELEASE THE NARRATIVE, THE  
17 RECOMMENDATION, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION RELATED  
18 TO A RETENTION YEAR EVALUATION, INCLUDING THE INFORMATION  
19 FORWARDED PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-105, TO THE PUBLIC NO LATER  
20 THAN TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO THE RETENTION ELECTION. THE STATE  
21 COMMISSION SHALL ARRANGE TO HAVE THE NARRATIVE AND  
22 RECOMMENDATION FOR EACH JUSTICE AND JUDGE STANDING FOR  
23 RETENTION PRINTED IN THE BALLOT INFORMATION BOOKLET PREPARED  
24 PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-40-124.5 AND MAILED TO ELECTORS PURSUANT  
25 TO SECTION 1-40-125.

26 **13-5.5-109. Judicial performance evaluations in interim years**  
27 **between elections - procedure.** (1) WITHIN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF A

1 JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S APPOINTMENT TO THE BENCH, THE APPROPRIATE  
2 COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT AN INITIAL EVALUATION OF EACH JUSTICE  
3 AND EACH JUDGE. THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSION SHALL COMPLETE AND  
4 COMMUNICATE ITS JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE INTERIM EVALUATIONS AS  
5 FOLLOWS:

6 (a) THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL COMMUNICATE ITS FINDINGS,  
7 INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT PLANS, TO THE  
8 CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OR THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT  
9 OF APPEALS AND THE APPELLATE JUSTICE OR JUDGE WHO WAS EVALUATED;  
10 AND

11 (b) THE APPLICABLE DISTRICT COMMISSION SHALL COMMUNICATE  
12 ITS FINDINGS, INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT  
13 PLANS, TO THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT AND THE JUDGE WHO WAS  
14 EVALUATED.

15 (2) IF A COMMISSION RECOMMENDS AN IMPROVEMENT PLAN, THE  
16 PROCEDURE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR SUCH A PLAN WILL  
17 FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN SECTION 13-5.5-110.

18 (3) THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSION, AT ITS DISCRETION, MAY  
19 CONDUCT A SUBSEQUENT INTERIM EVALUATION OF EACH JUSTICE AND  
20 EACH JUDGE DURING THE YEARS BETWEEN WHEN THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE  
21 STANDS FOR RETENTION, IF APPLICABLE.

22 (4) THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSION SHALL GRANT EACH JUSTICE OR  
23 JUDGE WHO RECEIVES AN INITIAL OR INTERIM EVALUATION THE  
24 OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE COMMISSION OR OTHERWISE RESPOND TO  
25 THE INITIAL OR INTERIM EVALUATION NO LATER THAN TEN DAYS  
26 FOLLOWING THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S RECEIPT OF THE INITIAL OR INTERIM  
27 EVALUATION. IF A MEETING IS HELD OR A RESPONSE IS MADE, THE

1 APPROPRIATE COMMISSION MAY REVISE ITS INITIAL OR INTERIM  
2 EVALUATION.

3 **13-5.5-110. Individual judicial improvement plans.** (1) (a) IF  
4 THE STATE COMMISSION OR A DISTRICT COMMISSION RECOMMENDS,  
5 PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-109(1), THAT A JUSTICE OR JUDGE RECEIVE  
6 AN INDIVIDUAL JUDICIAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
7 COMMUNICATE SUCH RECOMMENDATION TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE OR  
8 APPROPRIATE CHIEF JUDGE. THE CHIEF JUSTICE OR CHIEF JUDGE SHALL  
9 THEN DEVELOP AN IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR SUCH JUDGE AND SHALL SEND  
10 THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO THE STATE COMMISSION FOR REVIEW. AFTER  
11 THE STATE COMMISSION REVIEWS AND APPROVES THE IMPROVEMENT  
12 PLAN, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OR CHIEF JUDGE SHALL HAVE THE  
13 RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING AND OVERSEEING THE IMPROVEMENT  
14 PLAN.

15 (b) ONCE THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE HAS COMPLETED THE  
16 IMPROVEMENT PLAN, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OR CHIEF JUDGE SHALL CONVEY  
17 THE RESULTS OF THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN ACTIVITIES TO THE APPROPRIATE  
18 COMMISSION, WHICH WILL THEN MAINTAIN A COPY OF THE IMPROVEMENT  
19 PLAN AND THE STATEMENT OF RESULTS IN ITS FILES.

20 (2) IF A JUSTICE OR JUDGE IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AN  
21 IMPROVEMENT PLAN PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, AND HE OR SHE FAILS TO  
22 SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH IMPROVEMENT  
23 PLAN, THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSION SHALL AUTOMATICALLY ISSUE A  
24 "DOES NOT MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARD" DESIGNATION ON HIS OR HER  
25 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SUMMARY.

26 **13-5.5-111. Judicial performance evaluations - senior judges.**

27 (1) EVERY THIRD YEAR FOLLOWING THE INITIAL APPOINTMENT OF A

1 SENIOR JUDGE TO THE BENCH THROUGH A CONTRACT PURSUANT TO  
2 SECTION 24-51-1105, THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT A  
3 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE SENIOR JUDGE BASED ON THE JUDICIAL  
4 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SECTION 13-5.5-107.  
5 THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL COMPLETE THE PERFORMANCE  
6 EVALUATION OF SUCH SENIOR JUDGE AND COMMUNICATE THE RELATED  
7 NARRATIVE TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE NO LATER THAN FORTY-FIVE DAYS  
8 PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE SENIOR JUDGE'S CONTRACT FOR THAT  
9 YEAR. THE NARRATIVE MUST INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SENIOR  
10 JUDGE'S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES WITH RESPECT TO THE JUDICIAL  
11 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SECTION 13-5.5-107.

12 (2) THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO  
13 THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT REGARDING THE  
14 SENIOR JUDGE'S PERFORMANCE. THE RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE STATED  
15 AS "MEETS PERFORMANCE STANDARD" OR "DOES NOT MEET PERFORMANCE  
16 STANDARD".

17 **13-5.5-112. Recusal.** (1) A COMMISSIONER SHALL DISCLOSE TO  
18 HIS OR HER COMMISSION ANY PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP  
19 WITH A JUSTICE OR JUDGE THAT MAY AFFECT AN UNBIASED EVALUATION  
20 OF THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE, INCLUDING INVOLVEMENT WITH ANY  
21 LITIGATION INVOLVING THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE AND THE COMMISSIONER,  
22 THE COMMISSIONER'S FAMILY, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S FINANCIAL  
23 INTERESTS. A COMMISSION MAY REQUIRE, UPON A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF  
24 THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS, THE RECUSAL OF ONE OF ITS COMMISSIONERS  
25 BECAUSE OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH A JUSTICE OR JUDGE.

26 (2) A JUSTICE OR JUDGE WHO IS BEING EVALUATED BY A STATE OR  
27 DISTRICT COMMISSION MAY NOT RECUSE HIMSELF OR HERSELF FROM A

1 CASE SOLELY ON THE BASIS THAT AN ATTORNEY, PARTY, OR WITNESS IN  
2 THE CASE IS A COMMISSIONER ON THE EVALUATING COMMISSION.

3 **13-5.5-113. Confidentiality.** (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN  
4 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, ALL SELF-EVALUATIONS, PERSONAL  
5 INFORMATION PROTECTED UNDER SECTION 24-72-204 (3)(a)(II),  
6 ADDITIONAL ORAL OR WRITTEN INFORMATION, CONTENT OF ANY JUDICIAL  
7 IMPROVEMENT PLANS, AND ANY MATTER DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE  
8 SESSION IS CONFIDENTIAL EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED  
9 BY RULE. ALL SURVEYS MUST ALLOW FOR THE PARTICIPANT'S NAME TO  
10 REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENTS IN SURVEYS ARE CONFIDENTIAL, BUT  
11 MAY BE SUMMARIZED IN AGGREGATE FOR USE IN JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
12 EVALUATION NARRATIVES. A COMMISSIONER SHALL NOT PUBLICLY  
13 DISCUSS THE EVALUATION OF A PARTICULAR JUSTICE OR JUDGE.

14 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, ALL  
15 RECOMMENDATIONS AND NARRATIVES ARE CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL  
16 RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THE FIRST DAY FOLLOWING THE DEADLINE  
17 FOR JUSTICES AND JUDGES TO DECLARE THEIR INTENT TO STAND FOR  
18 RETENTION.

19 (3) INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT  
20 TO THIS ARTICLE 5.5 MAY BE RELEASED ONLY UNDER THE FOLLOWING  
21 CIRCUMSTANCES:

22 (a) TO THE SUPREME COURT ATTORNEY REGULATION COMMITTEE,  
23 AS PROVIDED BY RULE OF THE STATE COMMISSION;

24 (b) TO THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE, AS PROVIDED BY  
25 RULE OF THE STATE COMMISSION; OR

26 (c) WITH THE CONSENT OF THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE BEING  
27 EVALUATED.



1           **13-5.5-114. Reporting requirements - "State Measurement for**  
2           **Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government**

3           **Act" report.** (1) THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL GATHER AND MAINTAIN  
4           STATEWIDE DATA AND POST A STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE STATEWIDE  
5           DATA ON ITS WEBSITE NO LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS PRIOR TO EACH  
6           RETENTION ELECTION. THE REPORT MUST SPECIFY, AT A MINIMUM:

7                   (a) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES WHO WERE  
8                   ELIGIBLE TO STAND FOR RETENTION AND THE NUMBER WHO DECLARED  
9                   THEIR INTENT TO STAND FOR REELECTION;

10                   (b) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS  
11                   OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES PERFORMED BY THE STATE AND DISTRICT  
12                   COMMISSIONS;

13                   (c) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES WHO WERE  
14                   EVALUATED BUT DID NOT STAND FOR RETENTION; AND

15                   (d) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES WHO RECEIVED  
16                   A "MEETS PERFORMANCE STANDARD" OR "DOES NOT MEET PERFORMANCE  
17                   STANDARD" RECOMMENDATION, RESPECTIVELY.

18           (2) BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2019, AND EVERY TWO YEARS  
19           THEREAFTER, THE STATE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES  
20           OF THE COMMISSIONERS TO THE JOINT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF THE  
21           GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS PART OF ITS "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR  
22           ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART)  
23           GOVERNMENT ACT" PRESENTATION REQUIRED BY SECTION 2-7-203.

24           **13-5.5-115. State commission on judicial performance cash**  
25           **fund - acceptance of private or federal grants - general**  
26           **appropriations.** THE STATE COMMISSION IS AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT ANY  
27           GRANTS OF FEDERAL OR PRIVATE FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR ANY

1 PURPOSE CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE 5.5. ANY  
2 MONEY RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST BE TRANSMITTED TO  
3 THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE SAME TO THE STATE  
4 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE CASH FUND, WHICH IS HEREBY  
5 CREATED. THE FUND ALSO INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF THE INCREASES IN  
6 DOCKET FEES COLLECTED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13-32-105 (1) AND  
7 42-4-1710 (4)(a). ANY INTEREST DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND  
8 INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND IS CREDITED TO THE FUND. ANY  
9 UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AT  
10 THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR REMAINS IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE  
11 CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANOTHER FUND.  
12 MONEY IN THE FUND MAY BE EXPENDED BY THE STATE COMMISSION,  
13 SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FOR  
14 THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 5.5. IN ADDITION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
15 MAY MAKE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE  
16 PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 5.5.

17 **13-5.5-116. Private right of action.** (1) FINAL ACTIONS OF THE  
18 STATE COMMISSION ARE SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW AS PROVIDED FOR  
19 IN THIS SECTION. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "FINAL ACTION" MEANS  
20 A RULE, GUIDELINE, OR PROCEDURE ADOPTED BY THE STATE COMMISSION  
21 PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 5.5. A "FINAL ACTION" DOES NOT INCLUDE A  
22 FINAL RECOMMENDATION REGARDING A JUSTICE OR A JUDGE THAT IS MADE  
23 BY THE STATE COMMISSION OR A DISTRICT COMMISSION PURSUANT TO  
24 SECTION 13-5.5-108 OR 13-5.5-109, AN IMPROVEMENT PLAN DEVELOPED  
25 PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.5-109, SURVEYS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO  
26 SECTION 13-5.5-105 (2)(d), OR ANY ASPECT OF AN INDIVIDUAL JUSTICE'S  
27 OR JUDGE'S INDIVIDUAL JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION.

1           (2) A PERSON ADVERSELY AFFECTED OR AGGRIEVED BY A FINAL  
2 ACTION OF THE STATE COMMISSION MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION FOR  
3 JUDICIAL REVIEW IN THE DENVER DISTRICT COURT WITHIN THIRTY-FIVE  
4 DAYS AFTER SUCH ACTION BECOMES EFFECTIVE. UPON A FINDING BY THE  
5 COURT THAT IRREPARABLE INJURY WOULD OTHERWISE RESULT, THE  
6 REVIEWING COURT SHALL POSTPONE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE STATE  
7 COMMISSION'S ACTION TO PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF THE PARTIES, PENDING  
8 CONCLUSION OF THE REVIEW PROCEEDINGS.

9           (3) IF THE COURT FINDS NO ERROR, IT SHALL AFFIRM THE STATE  
10 COMMISSION'S FINAL ACTION. IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE STATE  
11 COMMISSION'S ACTION IS ARBITRARY OR CAPRICIOUS; A DENIAL OF A  
12 STATUTORY RIGHT; CONTRARY TO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT, POWER,  
13 PRIVILEGE, OR IMMUNITY; IN EXCESS OF STATUTORY JURISDICTION,  
14 AUTHORITY, PURPOSES, OR LIMITATIONS; NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE  
15 PROCEDURES OR PROCEDURAL LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE 5.5  
16 OR AS OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY LAW; AN ABUSE OR CLEARLY  
17 UNWARRANTED EXERCISE OF DISCRETION; BASED UPON FINDINGS OF FACT  
18 THAT ARE CLEARLY ERRONEOUS ON THE WHOLE RECORD; UNSUPPORTED  
19 BY SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WHEN THE RECORD IS CONSIDERED AS A  
20 WHOLE; OR OTHERWISE CONTRARY TO LAW, THEN THE COURT SHALL HOLD  
21 THE ACTION UNLAWFUL, SET IT ASIDE, RESTRAIN ENFORCEMENT, AND  
22 AFFORD SUCH OTHER RELIEF AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE. IN ALL CASES  
23 UNDER REVIEW, THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE ALL QUESTIONS OF LAW,  
24 INTERPRET THE STATUTORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INVOLVED,  
25 AND APPLY THE INTERPRETATION TO THE FACTS DULY FOUND OR  
26 ESTABLISHED.

27           ■   ■   ■

1           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-3-101, **amend** (5)  
2 as follows:

3           **13-3-101. State court administrator.** (5) The state court  
4 administrator shall provide to the director of research of the legislative  
5 council criminal justice information and statistics and any other related  
6 data requested by the director. The state court administrator shall provide  
7 to the state commission on judicial performance and to district  
8 commissions on judicial performance, ESTABLISHED IN SECTION  
9 13-5.5-104, case management statistics for justices and judges WHO ARE  
10 being evaluated.

11           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-32-105, **amend**  
12 (1)(b) as follows:

13           **13-32-105. Docket fees in criminal actions.** (1) (b) On and after  
14 June 6, 2003, the docket fee in all criminal actions in all courts of record,  
15 except the county court, court of appeals, and the supreme court, ~~shall be~~  
16 ~~IS~~ increased by five dollars and the docket fee in county court criminal  
17 actions ~~shall be~~ ~~IS~~ increased by three dollars. The additional revenue  
18 generated by the docket fee increases shall be transmitted to the state  
19 treasurer for deposit in the state commission on judicial performance cash  
20 fund created in ~~section 13-5.5-107~~ SECTION 13-5.5-115.

21           **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-402, **amend**  
22 (5)(r) as follows:

23           **24-75-402. Cash funds - limit on uncommitted reserves -**  
24 **reduction in amount of fees - exclusions - repeal.** (5) Notwithstanding  
25 any provision of this section to the contrary, the following cash funds are  
26 excluded from the limitations specified in this section:

27           (r) The state commission on judicial performance cash fund

1 created in ~~section 13-5.5-107, C.R.S.~~ SECTION 13-5.5-115, until this  
2 paragraph (r) SUBSECTION (5)(r) is repealed, effective July 1, 2017;

3 SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1710, amend  
4 (4)(a)(II) as follows:

5 42-4-1710. Failure to pay penalty for traffic infractions -  
6 failure of parent or guardian to sign penalty assessment notice -  
7 procedures. (4) (a) (II) On and after June 6, 2003, the docket fee  
8 assessed in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) shall be SUBSECTION  
9 (4)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION IS increased by three dollars. The additional  
10 revenue generated by the docket fee shall be transmitted to the state  
11 treasurer for deposit in the state commission on judicial performance cash  
12 fund created in ~~section 13-5.5-107, C.R.S.~~ SECTION 13-5.5-115.

13 SECTION 6. Appropriation. For the 2017-18 state fiscal year,  
14 \$24,500 is appropriated to the judicial department. This appropriation is  
15 from the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this  
16 appropriation for the office of judicial performance evaluation.

17 SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date. This  
18 act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
19 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
20 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a  
21 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
22 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
23 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
24 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
25 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
26 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

27