

Legislation Relating to the Appointment and Election of Circuit Court Judges 1996-2015

Year	Bill #	Title	Sponsor(s)	Crossfile	Prior Introduction	Final Status	Summary
1996	HB 268	Circuit Court Judges – Gubernatorial Appointments – Senate Confirmation	Delegate M. Burns		SB 3/1995	Withdrawn Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to require Senate confirmation of appointees to the office of circuit court judge.
1996	SB 684	Judicial Nominating Commissions	Senator Young, <i>et al.</i>			Unfavorable Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to establish judicial nominating commissions.
1997	HB 7	Ethics Laws – Financial Disclosure Statements – Judicial Candidates	Delegate Taylor, <i>et al.</i>			First Reading Economic and Environmental Affairs	Would have required a candidate for nomination or election to a judgeship to file additional financial disclosure statements under specified circumstances.
1997	HB 69	Election of Circuit Court Judges – Nonpartisan Elections	Delegate Workman			Unfavorable Judiciary	Would have required candidates for election to a circuit court to be elected on a nonpartisan basis, without regard to any political party affiliation.
2002	SB 150	Circuit Court Judges – Election and Term of Office	Senator Della			Unfavorable Judicial Proceedings	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2003	HB 120	Circuit Court Judges – Election and Term of Office	Delegates Frush and Moe	SB 35	SB 150/2002	Unfavorable Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2003	HB 466	Election of Circuit Court Judges – Nonpartisan Elections	Delegate Mandel, <i>et al.</i>			Unfavorable Judiciary	Would have required candidates for election to a circuit court to be elected on a nonpartisan basis, without regard to any political party affiliation, and allowed any registered voter to vote in a primary election for circuit court judge regardless of party affiliation.

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2003	SB 6	Circuit Court Judges - Selection, Confirmation, and Tenure	Senator Giannetti			Unfavorable Judicial Proceedings	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2003	SB 35	Circuit Court Judges - Election and Term of Office	Senator Della	HB 120	SB 150/2002	Unfavorable Judicial Proceedings	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2003	SB 88	Circuit Court Judges - Appointment and Term of Office	Senator Frosh, <i>et al.</i>			Unfavorable Judicial Proceedings	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2003	SB 701	Elections - Circuit Court Judges	Senators Brochin and Mooney			Re-referred Judicial Proceedings	Would have required a candidate for judge of the circuit court who is not an incumbent to declare which incumbent judge the candidate is challenging.
2004	HB 450	Circuit Court Judges - Election and Term of Office	Delegates Frush and Conroy		SB 120/2003	Unfavorable Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2004	HB 1544	Election of Circuit Court Judges - Nonpartisan General Elections	Delegate Zirkin			Withdrawn Judiciary	Would have required a candidate for election as a circuit court judge to be elected at a general election on a nonpartisan basis, and prohibited nomination at a primary election.
2004	SB 647	Circuit Court Judges - Appointment and Term of Office	Senator Ruben		SB 88/2003	Withdrawn Judicial Proceedings	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.

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2005	HB 271	Circuit Court Judges – Election and Term of Office	Delegate Frush, <i>et al.</i>		HB 450/2004	Unfavorable Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2005	HB 276	Election of Circuit Court Judges – Primary Elections	Delegates Zirkin and Bohanan			First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	As amended in the House, would have provided for a primary for nomination of candidates for circuit court judge by registered voters who are unaffiliated with any political party (in addition to existing party primary and petition processes).
2005	HB 700	Circuit Court Judges – Ballot Designations – Nominating Party	Delegate Anderson	SB 539		Unfavorable Judiciary	Would have required that a candidate for circuit court judge be designated on the ballot as the candidate of the political party whose primary the candidate won or that otherwise nominated the candidate.
2005	SB 167	Circuit Court Judges – Appointment and Term of Office	Senator Ruben		SB 647/2004	Withdrawn Judicial Proceedings	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2005	SB 539	Circuit Court Judges – Ballot Designations – Nominating Party and Incumbency of Candidates	Senator Giannetti	HB 700		Re-assigned Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Would have required that a candidate for circuit court judge be designated on the ballot as the candidate of the political party whose primary the candidate won or that otherwise nominated the candidate.
2005	SB 730	Election of Circuit Court Judges – Nonpartisan General Elections	Senator Giannetti		HB 1544/2004	Re-assigned Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Would have required a candidate for election as a circuit court judge to be elected at a general election on a nonpartisan basis, and prohibited nomination at a primary election.

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2006	HB 384	Election of Circuit Court Judges - Nonpartisan Elections	Chairman, Judiciary Committee (By Request - Maryland Judicial Conference)	SB 145		Withdrawn Judiciary	Would have required judges of the circuit court to be elected on a nonpartisan basis, allowed any registered voter, regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof, to vote in a primary election to nominate circuit court judge candidates, and prohibited nomination by petition.
2006	HB 385	Circuit Court Judges - Election and Tenure	Chairman, Judiciary Committee (By Request - Maryland Judicial Conference)	SB 206		Withdrawn Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges. First elected term would be 15 years, subsequent terms would be 10 years. Would not have required Senate confirmation of appointees.
2006	HB 390	Election of Circuit Court Judges - Nonpartisan General Elections	Delegate Zirkin, <i>et al.</i>			First Reading Judiciary	Would have required a candidate for election as a circuit court judge to be elected at a general election on a nonpartisan basis, and prohibited nomination at a primary election.
2006	HB 393	Election of Circuit Court Judges - Nonpartisan Elections	Delegate Zirkin			Unfavorable Judiciary	Would have required candidates for election to a circuit court to be elected on a nonpartisan basis, without regard to any political party affiliation, and allowed any registered voter to vote in a primary election for circuit court judge regardless of party affiliation.
2006	SB 145	Election of Circuit Court Judges - Nonpartisan Elections	Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request - Maryland Judicial Conference)	HB 384		Unfavorable Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Would have required judges of the circuit court to be elected on a nonpartisan basis, allowed any registered voter, regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof, to vote in a primary election to nominate circuit court judge candidates, and prohibited nomination by petition.
2006	SB 206	Circuit Court Judges - Election and Tenure	Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request - Maryland Judicial Conference)	HB 385		Unfavorable Judicial Proceedings	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges. First elected term would be 15 years, subsequent terms would be 10 years. Would not have required Senate confirmation of appointees.

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2006	SB 324	Election of Circuit Court Judges – Nonpartisan Elections	Senators Dyson and Kittleman		HB 466/2003	First Reading Judiciary	Would have required candidates for election to a circuit court to be elected on a nonpartisan basis, without regard to any political party affiliation, and allowed any registered voter to vote in a primary election for circuit court judge regardless of party affiliation.
2007	HB 290	Election Law – Circuit Court Judges – Retention Elections	Delegate Cardin, <i>et al.</i>			Withdrawn Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to establish a Judicial Recommendation Committee, and require the Governor to appoint a qualified individual recommended by the committee and the Maryland State Bar Association to fill a circuit court vacancy. An appointee would run in a contested election for a 15-year term, then in a retention election for a 10-year term thereafter.
2007	HB 1363	Circuit Court Judges – Election and Term of Office	Delegate Frush		HB 271/2005	Withdrawn Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2007	SB 46	Election of Circuit Court Judges – Nonpartisan Elections	Senator Dyson, <i>et al.</i>		SB 324/2006	Withdrawn Judiciary	Would have required candidates for election to a circuit court to be elected on a nonpartisan basis, without regard to any political party affiliation, and allowed any registered voter to vote in a primary election for circuit court judge regardless of party affiliation.
2008	HB 1275	Circuit Court Judges – Election and Term of Office	Delegate Frush, <i>et al.</i>		HB 1363/2007	Unfavorable Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2009	SB 872	Election Law – Candidate for Judge of the Circuit Court – Filing Requirements	Senator Zirkin			First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Would have required a candidate for judge of the circuit court, who seeks nomination by petition or by a political party not required to nominate candidates by party primary, to file a declaration of intent by the date and time specified for a candidate to file a certificate of candidacy.

Year	Bill #	Title	Sponsor(s)	Crossfile	Prior Introduction	Final Status	Summary
2010	HB 1385	Circuit Court Judges – Election, Qualifications, and Term of Office	Delegate Cardin	SB 833		First Reading Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2010	SB 833	Circuit Court Judges – Election, Qualifications, and Term of Office	The President (By Request – Departmental – Office of the Attorney General), et al.	HB 1385		Re-assigned Judicial Proceedings	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2011	HB 309	Circuit Court Judges – Election and Term of Office	Delegate Frush		HB 1275/2008	Withdrawn Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2011	HB 375	Circuit Court Judges – Election, Qualifications, and Term of Office	Delegate Cardin, et al.		HB 1385/2010	Withdrawn Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2013	HB 1234	Election of Circuit Court Judges – Random Ordering of Names	Delegate Frank			Withdrawn Way and Means	Would have required a local board of elections to conduct a random drawing to determine the order of the names of candidates for circuit court judge on the ballot in both primary and general elections.
2013	SB 294	Election of Circuit Court Judges – Nonpartisan General Elections	Senator Zirkin			First Reading Judicial Proceedings	Would have required a candidate for election as a circuit court judge to be elected at a general election on a nonpartisan basis, and prohibited nomination at a primary election or by a party that is not required to nominate candidates by a primary election.

Year	Bill #	Title	Sponsor(s)	Crossfile	Prior Introduction	Final Status	Summary
2013	SB 295	Circuit Court Judges – Election, Qualifications, and Term of Office	Senator Zirkin			First Reading Judicial Proceedings	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2015	HB 548	Circuit Court Judges – Election	Delegate Kramer, <i>et al.</i>			Withdrawn Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, and require Senate confirmation for appointees. Would not have affected 15-year term.
2015	HB 582	Circuit Court Judges – Selection, Qualifications, and Term of Office	Delegate Sydnor, <i>et al.</i>	SB 367		Withdrawn Judiciary	Would have eliminated elections for circuit court judges, required Senate confirmation for appointees, reduced the term of office from 15 years to 10 years, and required reappointment at expiration of 10-year term (like District Court judges).
2015	HB 1071	Circuit Court Judges – Election, Qualifications, and Term of Office	Delegate Hill, <i>et al.</i>		SB 295/2013	Withdrawn Judiciary	Proposed constitutional amendment to provide for retention elections instead of contested elections for circuit court judges, require Senate confirmation for appointees, and reduce the term of office from 15 years to 10 years.
2015	SB 367	Circuit Court Judges – Selection, Qualifications, and Term of Office	Senator Kelley, <i>et al.</i>	HB 582		First Reading Judicial Proceedings	Would have eliminated elections for circuit court judges, required Senate confirmation for appointees, reduced the term of office from 15 years to 10 years, and required reappointment at expiration of 10-year term (like District Court judges).
2015	SB 679	Election of Circuit Court Judges – Nonpartisan General Election	Senator Raskin, <i>et al.</i>			Withdrawn Judicial Proceedings	Would have required a candidate for election as a circuit court judge to be elected at a general election on a nonpartisan basis, and prohibited nomination at a primary election.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

