



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 594

January Session, 2013

House Bill No. 6669

House of Representatives, April 23, 2013

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. JUTILA of the 37th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 9-7a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) There is established, within the Office of Governmental
5 Accountability established under section 1-300, a State Elections
6 Enforcement Commission to consist of five members, not more than
7 two of whom shall be members of the same political party and at least
8 one of whom shall not be affiliated with any political party.

9 (1) Of the members first appointed [hereunder] under this
10 subsection, one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House
11 of Representatives and shall hold office for a term of one year from
12 July 1, 1974; one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the

13 Senate and shall hold office for a term of three years from said July
14 first; one shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of
15 Representatives and shall hold office for a term of one year from said
16 July first; one shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the
17 Senate and shall hold office for a term of three years from said July
18 first [,] and one shall be appointed by the Governor, provided [that]
19 such member shall not be affiliated with any political party, and shall
20 hold office for a term of five years from said July first, except members
21 appointed on or after July 1, [2011] 2012.

22 (2) On and after July 1, [2011] 2012, the first member appointed by
23 each officeholder described in this subsection shall be appointed for a
24 term of four years and nine months from July first of the year of
25 appointment, provided if the first member appointed by an
26 officeholder on or after July 1, 2012, is an appointment to fill a vacancy,
27 such appointment shall be only for the unexpired term of the member
28 whom he or she shall succeed, and the next member appointed by that
29 officeholder shall be appointed for a term of four years and nine
30 months from July first of the year of that member's appointment. After
31 the initial appointments for full terms made on or after July 1, 2012,
32 members shall be appointed for terms of [three] five years from [July]
33 April first in the year of their appointment and shall be appointed by
34 the person holding the same office as was held by the person making
35 the original appointment, provided any person chosen to fill a vacancy
36 shall be appointed only for the unexpired term of the member whom
37 he or she shall succeed. [On and after July 1, 2011, no member may
38 serve consecutive terms, except that any member serving on said date,
39 may serve until a successor is appointed and has qualified.] All
40 appointments shall be made with the consent of the state Senate and
41 House of Representatives. No person who has served within the
42 previous three years as a public official, other than as a member of the
43 State Elections Enforcement Commission, or who has served within
44 the previous three years as a political party officer, shall be appointed
45 to membership on the commission. For purposes of this subsection, the
46 term "public official" means an individual who holds or has held a
47 state, district or municipal office as defined in section 9-372 but shall

48 not include a justice of the peace or a notary public and the term
49 "political party officer" means an officer or member of a national
50 committee of a political party, state central or town committee, or any
51 person employed by any such committee for compensation. The
52 commission shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson and
53 another member to serve as vice-chairperson. Each member of the
54 commission shall be compensated at the rate of two hundred dollars
55 per day for any day on which he participates in a regular commission
56 meeting or hearing, and shall be paid by the state for his reasonable
57 expenses, including necessary stenographic and clerical help.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-7a(a)

GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which modifies the term and appointment provisions for members of the State Elections Enforcement Commission, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6669*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes changes affecting State Elections Enforcement Commission member terms. Generally, it:

1. increases term lengths from three to five years,
2. eliminates the prohibition on serving consecutive terms, and
3. moves the appointment date from July 1 to April 1.

However, each appointing authority's first appointment on and after July 1, 2012 serves four years and nine months, unless the appointment is to fill a vacancy. In that case, the appointee serves the unexpired portion of the term, and the appointing authority's next appointment serves for four years and nine months.

By law, the commission consists of five members; the governor, Senate president, House speaker, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader each appoint one member. No more than two may be from the same political party, and at least one must be unaffiliated with any political party. Both houses of the General Assembly confirm.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (04/05/2013)