

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to judges of compensation claims;
 3 amending s. 440.45, F.S.; increasing the initial term
 4 of office for a judge of compensation claims;
 5 providing annual salary requirements for full-time
 6 judges of compensation claims and the Deputy Chief
 7 Judge of Compensation Claims; requiring certain annual
 8 salaries to be paid from the Workers' Compensation
 9 Administration Trust Fund; providing an effective
 10 date.

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 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 14 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
 15 440.45, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (6) is
 16 added to that section, to read:

17 440.45 Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims.—
 18 (2)

19 (c) Each judge of compensation claims shall be appointed
 20 for an initial ~~a~~ term of office of 6 4 years.~~7~~ A judge of
 21 compensation claims ~~but during the term of office~~ may be removed
 22 during his or her term of office by the Governor for cause.
 23 Prior to the expiration of a judge's term of office, the
 24 statewide nominating commission shall review the judge's conduct
 25 and determine whether the judge's performance is satisfactory.

26 ~~Effective July 1, 2002,~~ In determining whether a judge's
27 performance is satisfactory, the commission shall consider the
28 extent to which the judge has met the requirements of this
29 chapter, including, but not limited to, the requirements of ss.
30 440.25(1) and (4)(a)-(e), 440.34(2), and 440.442. If the judge's
31 performance is deemed satisfactory, the commission shall report
32 its finding to the Governor no later than 6 months prior to the
33 expiration of the judge's term of office. The Governor shall
34 review the commission's report and may reappoint the judge for
35 an additional 4-year term. If the Governor does not reappoint
36 the judge, the Governor shall inform the commission. The judge
37 shall remain in office until the Governor has appointed a
38 successor judge in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b). If a
39 vacancy occurs during a judge's unexpired term, the statewide
40 nominating commission does not find the judge's performance is
41 satisfactory, or the Governor does not reappoint the judge, the
42 Governor shall appoint a successor judge for a term of 6 4 years
43 in accordance with paragraph (b).

44 (6) Each full-time judge of compensation claims shall
45 receive an annual salary that is \$10,000 less than the annual
46 salary paid to a circuit court judge. The Deputy Chief Judge of
47 Compensation Claims shall receive an annual salary that is
48 \$1,000 more than the annual salary paid to a judge of
49 compensation claims. Salaries of judges of compensation claims
50 shall be paid from the Workers' Compensation Administration

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51 | Trust Fund established under s. 440.50.

52 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.