Public Law 98-598
98th Congress

An Act

Oct. 30, 1984
[H.R. 6007]

To establish certain procedures regarding the judicial service of retired judges of District of Columbia courts, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

District of Columbia Retired Judge Service Act.

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Retired Judge Service Act".

SERVICE OF RETIRED JUDGES

SEC. 2. (a) Section 11-1504 of the District of Columbia Code is amended to read as follows:

"§ 11-1504. Services of Retired Judges

"(a)(1) A judge, retired for reasons other than disability, who has been favorably recommended and appointed as a senior judge, in accordance with subsection (b), may perform such judicial duties as such senior judge is assigned and willing and able to undertake. A senior judge shall be subject to reappointment every two years in accordance with subsection (b). Except as provided under this section, retired judges may not perform judicial duties in District of Columbia courts.

"(2) Within 180 days of the date of retirement, a judge may request recommendation from the District of Columbia Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "Commission") to be appointed as a senior judge in accordance with this section.

"(3) Retired judges actively serving on the date of enactment of the District of Columbia Retired Judge Service Act and willing to continue to perform judicial duties shall request recommendation from the Commission to be appointed as senior judges within 180 days of the date of enactment of such Act in accordance with this section.

"(b)(1) A retired judge willing to perform judicial duties may request a recommendation as a senior judge from the Commission. Such judge shall submit to the Commission such information as the Commission considers necessary to a recommendation under this subsection.

"(2) The Commission shall submit a written report of its recommendations and findings to the appropriate chief judge and the judge requesting appointment within 180 days of the date of the request for recommendation. The Commission, under such criteria as it considers appropriate, shall make a favorable or unfavorable recommendation to the appropriate chief judge regarding an appointment as senior judge. The recommendation of the Commission shall be final.

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"(3) The appropriate chief judge shall notify the Commission and the judge requesting appointment of such chief judge's decision regarding appointment within 30 days after receipt of the Commission's recommendation and findings. The decision of such chief judge regarding such appointment shall be final.

"(c) A judge may continue to perform judicial duties upon retirement, without appointment as a senior judge, until such judge's successor assumes office.

"(d) A retired judge, actively performing judicial duties as of the date of enactment of the District of Columbia Retired Judge Service Act, may continue to perform such judicial duties as he or she may be willing and able to assume, subject to the approval of the appropriate chief judge, for a period not to exceed one year from the date of enactment of such Act, without appointment as a senior judge.".

(b) Section 431(g) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act is amended by inserting "and to make recommendations regarding the appointment of senior judges of the District of Columbia courts as provided in section 11-1504 of the District of Columbia Code" after "in section 432".

RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

SEC. 3. Section 11-1703(c) of title 11, District of Columbia Code, is amended by inserting ", including retirement benefits," after "compensation".

CHANGES IN THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SEC. 4. Section 1321 of title 11 of the District of Columbia Code is amended by striking out "$750" and inserting in lieu thereof "$2,000".

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 5. The provisions of this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Approved October 30, 1984.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 6007:

HOUSE REPORT No. 98-910 (Comm. on the District of Columbia).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):
July 30, considered and passed House.
Sept. 28, considered and passed Senate, amended.
Oct. 9, House concurred in Senate amendments.