

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S. B. No. 2970: Election contests; clarify the manner of selecting judges to hear.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby created a joint study
7 committee to examine the election of justice court judges. The
8 joint committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Senate
9 Elections Committee and five (5) members of the Senate Elections
10 Committee appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and the Chairman
11 of the House Apportionment and Elections Committee and five (5)
12 members of the House Apportionment and Elections Committee
13 appointed by the Speaker of the House. The Chairman of the Senate
14 Elections Committee and the Chairman of the House Apportionment
15 and Elections Committee shall serve as cochairmen of the joint
16 committee. The joint committee shall examine all aspects of the
17 election of justice court judges and shall, in addition to any
18 other aspects of the election the joint committee may choose to
19 examine the election of justice court judges on a nonpartisan
20 basis.

21 (2) The joint committee shall make a report of its findings
22 and recommendations, including necessary legislation, to the
23 Legislature on December 1, 2002.

24 (3) The joint committee shall meet on the call of the
25 cochairmen and shall organize by selecting from its membership a
26 vice chairman who shall also serve as secretary and shall be
27 responsible for keeping all records of the joint committee. A

28 majority of the members of the joint committee shall constitute a
29 quorum. All members shall be notified in writing of all meetings
30 and such notices shall be mailed at least five (5) days prior to
31 the date on which a meeting is to be held.

32 (4) Members of the committee shall be paid from the
33 contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the same
34 amounts as provided for committee meetings when the Legislature is
35 not in session.

36 (5) All state agencies shall cooperate with the joint
37 committee in providing information and resources necessary for the
38 joint committee to make its study.

39 (6) The joint committee shall utilize the staff of the
40 Legislature and any other assistance made available to it.

41 (7) Upon presentation of its report the joint committee
42 shall be dissolved.

43 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
44 and after its passage.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE
2 ELECTION OF JUSTICE COURT JUDGES ON A NONPARTISAN BASIS; TO
3 REQUIRE THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE BY DECEMBER 1,
4 2002; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X _____
Bennie L. Turner

Hob Bryan

X _____
Charlie Ross

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X _____
Thomas U. Reynolds

X _____
Ferr Smith

X _____
Willie Bailey