

April 15, 1999

S 1024. STATE JUDICIAL COUNCIL FUNDS (=H 1222). *TO IMPROVE THE STATE COURT SYSTEM BY CREATING A STATE JUDICIAL COUNCIL AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL.* Adds new GS 7A-49.4 as title indicates. Council consists of 19 members—Chief Justice (chair); court of appeals chief judge; district attorney, public defender, superior court judge; district court judge, clerk of court, with all the court officials except chief justice and chief judge chosen by their respective associations. In addition council has one attorney appointed by state bar, one attorney and one nonattorney chosen by Chief Justice, and two attorneys and one nonattorney chosen by Governor, Speaker and President Pro Tem (each gets three appointments). Terms are staggered four year terms. Council to review and advise system on budget matters, recommend salary levels and other benefits for court officials, determine if vacant judgeships should be retained by district to which it is assigned, recommend performance standards for courts and judicial officials and conduct judicial evaluations, monitor case loads in appellate courts, recommend case management and case assignment guidelines, encourage and monitor use of alternative dispute resolution. Designates members who are not court officials as body to make nominations for Governor to consider in filling appellate vacancies. Provides that members to get per diem and normal state reimbursements. Appropriates \$25,000 for fiscal 1999-2000 and \$50,000 for 2000-01 to pay expenses of Council. Effective Jan. 1, 2000.

Intro. by Clodfelter and Odom.

Ref. to Judiciary I

GS 7A, APPROP