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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**

**No. 947**      Session of  
1993

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INTRODUCED BY HECKLER, STURLA, STEELMAN, REBER, GERLACH, HARLEY,  
S. H. SMITH, STETLER, STEIL AND M. N. WRIGHT, MARCH 25, 1993

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 25, 1993

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the creation and operation of the Family Court  
2 Judges' Commission in the Office of General Counsel and  
3 prescribing its powers and duties.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Family Court  
8 Judges' Commission Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Commission." The Family Court Judges' Commission.

14 Section 3. Family Court Judges' Commission.

15 There is hereby created the Family Court Judges' Commission  
16 in the Office of General Counsel.

17 Section 4. Members.

18 The commission shall consist of nine judges who shall be

1 appointed by the Governor from a list of judges. Each judge  
2 listed shall be presently serving as a judge or president judge  
3 of the court of common pleas in this Commonwealth. The judges  
4 shall be selected and the list shall be submitted by the Chief  
5 Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Three of the first  
6 nine appointed shall serve for three years, three for two years  
7 and three for one year. Thereafter, the term for all members  
8 shall be for three years. The commission shall annually select  
9 one of their number to serve as chairperson and one to serve as  
10 secretary. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

11 Section 5. Assistants, clerks and stenographers.

12 The chairperson, with the approval of the majority of the  
13 commission, may appoint and fix the compensation of those  
14 assistants, clerks and stenographers as are necessary to enable  
15 the commission to perform the powers and duties vested in it.  
16 The compensation of those assistants, clerks and stenographers  
17 shall be fixed within limitations fixed by the commission, and  
18 they shall be eligible to apply for membership in the State  
19 Employees' Retirement System. During the term of employment, no  
20 assistant shall engage, directly or indirectly, in the practice  
21 of law in any court of this Commonwealth.

22 Section 6. Powers and duties.

23 The commission shall have the power and its duty shall be:

24 (1) To advise the family court judges of this  
25 Commonwealth in all matters pertaining to the proper  
26 procedure for resolving family law matters.

27 (2) To examine the administrative methods and judicial  
28 procedure used in family courts throughout this Commonwealth,  
29 establish standards and make recommendations on the same to  
30 the courts.

1           (3) To examine the personnel practices and employment  
2 standards used in domestic relations offices in this  
3 Commonwealth, establish standards and make recommendations on  
4 the same to the courts.

5           (4) To collect, compile and publish statistical and  
6 other data as may be needed to accomplish reasonable and  
7 efficient administration of the family courts.

8 Section 7. Meetings.

9       Each year there shall be quarterly meetings of the commission  
10 and any additional meetings as the chairperson shall deem  
11 necessary. Each member of the commission attending these  
12 meetings shall be paid only necessary expenses incurred in  
13 attending the meetings.

14 Section 8. Effective date.

15       This act shall take effect in 60 days.