

# HB1127



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB1127

Introduced 1/9/2025, by Rep. Charles Meier

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/7A-1

from Ch. 46, par. 7A-1

Amends the Election Code. Provides that a Judge that could seek retention of the Judge's office may not resign and seek election to the same office unless the former Judge has not served as elected or appointed Judge for that office for at least 2 years. Makes other changes.

LRB104 03613 SPS 13637 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 7A-1 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/7A-1) (from Ch. 46, par. 7A-1)

7 Sec. 7A-1. Any Supreme, Appellate or Circuit Judge who has  
8 been elected to that office and who seeks to be retained in  
9 that office under subsection (d) of Section 12 of Article VI of  
10 the Constitution shall file a declaration of candidacy for  
11 retention ~~to succeed himself~~ in the office of the Secretary of  
12 State not less than 6 months before the general election  
13 preceding the expiration of the Judge's ~~his~~ term of office.  
14 Within 3 business days thereafter, the Secretary of State  
15 shall certify to the State Board of Elections the names of all  
16 incumbent judges who were eligible to stand for retention at  
17 the next general election but failed to timely file a  
18 declaration of candidacy to succeed themselves in office or,  
19 having timely filed such a declaration, withdrew it. The State  
20 Board of Elections may rely upon the certification from the  
21 Secretary of State (a) to determine when vacancies in judicial  
22 office exist and (b) to determine the judicial positions for  
23 which elections will be held. The Secretary of State, not less

1 than 63 days before the election, shall certify the Judge's  
2 candidacy to the proper election officials. The names of  
3 Judges seeking retention shall be submitted to the electors,  
4 separately and without party designation, on the sole question  
5 whether each Judge shall be retained in office for another  
6 term. The retention elections shall be conducted at general  
7 elections in the appropriate Judicial District, for Supreme  
8 and Appellate Judges, and in the circuit for Circuit Judges.  
9 The affirmative vote of three-fifths of the electors voting on  
10 the question shall elect the Judge to the office for a term  
11 commencing on the first Monday in December following the  
12 Judge's ~~his~~ election.

13 Upon certification of a Judge's candidacy for retention by  
14 the Secretary of State, the judicial candidate may file a  
15 written request with the Secretary of State for redaction of  
16 the judicial candidate's home address information from the  
17 candidate's declaration of candidacy for retention. After  
18 receipt of the candidate's written request, the Secretary of  
19 State shall redact or cause redaction of the judicial  
20 candidate's home address from the candidate's declaration of  
21 candidacy for retention within 5 business days. For the  
22 purposes of this subsection, "home address" has the meaning as  
23 defined in Section 1-10 of the Judicial Privacy Act.

24 A Judge that could seek retention of the Judge's office  
25 under this Section may not resign and seek election to the same  
26 office unless the former Judge has not served as elected or

1 appointed Judge for that office for at least 2 years.

2 (Source: P.A. 96-886, eff. 1-1-11; 97-847, eff. 9-22-12.)