



**94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2005 and 2006**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

**HC0028**

Introduced 1/24/2006, by Rep. Elizabeth Coulson

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

Proposes to amend the Judiciary Article of the Illinois Constitution. Provides that judicial vacancies in the Circuit of Cook County, including those created by the expiration of a term of office, shall be filled by appointments by the Illinois Supreme Court from nominees submitted by circuit-wide and subcircuit Judicial Nominating Commissions. Provides that Judges of the Circuit of Cook County may be retained in office by approval of Judicial Review Commissions or by approval of three-fifths of the voters at retention elections. Provides for appointment of the various commissions. Effective upon being declared adopted, and applies to vacancies occurring on or after the following July 1.

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION  
 2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
 4 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
 5 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the  
 6 electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general  
 7 election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of  
 8 this resolution a proposition to amend Sections 10, 11, and 12  
 9 of and add Sections 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, and 12.5 to Article  
 10 VI of the Illinois Constitution as follows:

11 ARTICLE VI  
 12 THE JUDICIARY

13 (ILCON Art. VI, Sec. 10)

14 SECTION 10. TERMS OF OFFICE

15 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the terms of  
 16 office of Supreme and Appellate Court Judges shall be ten  
 17 years; of Circuit Judges, six years; and of Associate Judges,  
 18 four years.

19 (b) The initial term for each Judge of the Circuit of Cook  
 20 County appointed to office under Section 12.1 shall expire on  
 21 the first Monday in December following the third general  
 22 election after his or her appointment. Thereafter, if retained  
 23 in office pursuant to Section 12.4, the term of all Judges of  
 24 the Circuit of Cook County shall be 10 years. Terms of office  
 25 for Judges of the Circuit of Cook County elected before the  
 26 effective date of this Constitutional Amendment shall expire at  
 27 the end of the term for which they were elected.

28 (Source: Illinois Constitution.)

29 (ILCON Art. VI, Sec. 11)

30 SECTION 11. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

31 No person shall be eligible to be a Judge or Associate  
 32 Judge unless he or she is a United States citizen, a licensed

1 attorney-at-law of this State, and a resident of the unit which  
2 selects him or her. No change in the boundaries of a unit after  
3 a Judge or Associate Judge is selected shall affect the tenure  
4 in office of a Judge or Associate Judge incumbent at the time  
5 of the change or prohibit that Judge from seeking retention  
6 when his or her current or any future term expires ~~incumbent at~~  
7 ~~the time of such change.~~

8 (Source: Illinois Constitution.)

9 (ILCON Art. VI, Sec. 12)

10 SECTION 12. ELECTION AND RETENTION

11 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, Supreme,  
12 Appellate and Circuit Judges shall be nominated at primary  
13 elections or by petition. Judges shall be elected at general or  
14 judicial elections as the General Assembly shall provide by  
15 law. A person eligible for the office of Judge may cause his  
16 name to appear on the ballot as a candidate for Judge at the  
17 primary and at the general or judicial elections by submitting  
18 petitions. The General Assembly shall prescribe by law the  
19 requirements for petitions.

20 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the  
21 office of a Judge shall be vacant upon his death, resignation,  
22 retirement, removal, or upon the conclusion of his term without  
23 retention in office. Whenever an additional Appellate or  
24 Circuit Judge is authorized by law, the office shall be filled  
25 in the manner provided for filling a vacancy in that office.

26 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, a vacancy  
27 occurring in the office of Supreme, Appellate or Circuit Judge  
28 shall be filled as the General Assembly may provide by law. In  
29 the absence of a law, vacancies may be filled by appointment by  
30 the Supreme Court. A person appointed to fill a vacancy 60 or  
31 more days prior to the next primary election to nominate Judges  
32 shall serve until the vacancy is filled for a term at the next  
33 general or judicial election. A person appointed to fill a  
34 vacancy less than 60 days prior to the next primary election to  
35 nominate Judges shall serve until the vacancy is filled at the

1 second general or judicial election following such  
2 appointment.

3 (d) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, not less  
4 than six months before the general election preceding the  
5 expiration of his term of office, a Supreme, Appellate or  
6 Circuit Judge who has been elected to that office may file in  
7 the office of the Secretary of State a declaration of candidacy  
8 to succeed himself. The Secretary of State, not less than 63  
9 days before the election, shall certify the Judge's candidacy  
10 to the proper election officials. The names of Judges seeking  
11 retention shall be submitted to the electors, separately and  
12 without party designation, on the sole question whether each  
13 Judge shall be retained in office for another term. The  
14 retention elections shall be conducted at general elections in  
15 the appropriate Judicial District, for Supreme and Appellate  
16 Judges, and in the circuit for Circuit Judges. The affirmative  
17 vote of three-fifths of the electors voting on the question  
18 shall elect the Judge to the office for a term commencing on  
19 the first Monday in December following his election.

20 (e) A law reducing the number of Appellate or Circuit  
21 Judges shall be without prejudice to the right of the Judges  
22 affected to seek retention in office. A reduction shall become  
23 effective when a vacancy occurs in the affected unit.

24 (Source: Illinois Constitution.)

25 (ILCON Art. VI, Sec. 12.1 new)

26 SECTION 12.1. APPLICATION PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES IN  
27 THE CIRCUIT OF COOK COUNTY

28 (a) A vacancy in the office of Judge in the Circuit of Cook  
29 County shall be deemed to have occurred upon: (1) the death,  
30 resignation, or removal of a Judge; (2) the retirement of a  
31 Judge before or upon the expiration of his or her current term;  
32 (3) the failure of a Judge to be retained in office by the  
33 Judicial Review Commission or by the electorate, as provided in  
34 Section 12.4; or (4) the creation of a new judgeship by the  
35 General Assembly.

1       (b) For vacancies in a judgeship in the Circuit of Cook  
2 County, the Chief Judge of the Circuit shall cause notice to be  
3 given to the bar of the Circuit, in the same manner as notice  
4 of matters of general interest to the bar is customarily given  
5 in the Circuit, that the vacancy exists and will be filled  
6 pursuant to the provisions of Section 12.2. The notice of any  
7 vacancy covered by this Section shall be given as soon as  
8 possible, but no later than 30 days after the accumulation of  
9 five consecutive vacancies in the Circuit of Cook County. The  
10 Chief Judge of the Circuit of Cook County shall give notice of  
11 these vacancies to the Chair of the Judicial Nominating  
12 Commission at the same time the Chief Judge gives public notice  
13 of the vacancies. If the Chief Judge of the Circuit of Cook  
14 County fails to give notice of vacancies in the Circuit of Cook  
15 County within the time period prescribed by this Section, the  
16 Director of the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts shall  
17 give notice of the relevant vacancies within five days of the  
18 expiration of the time period set forth in this Section.

19       (c) Any person who is qualified to serve as a Judge  
20 pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 may seek appointment  
21 to fill any vacancy in the Circuit of Cook County, provided  
22 that a person may seek to fill a vacancy in the Circuit of Cook  
23 County or, where applicable, a subcircuit of the Circuit of  
24 Cook County, only if he or she resides in the Circuit of Cook  
25 County and, where applicable, the particular subcircuit of the  
26 Circuit of Cook County at the time the vacancy arises. Any  
27 person seeking to fill a vacancy shall have 30 days after the  
28 notice of vacancy is given within which to file with the Chief  
29 Judge of the Circuit of Cook County and with the Director of  
30 the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts an application in  
31 the form prescribed and furnished by the Director and shall  
32 also file any other materials prescribed by the Judicial  
33 Nominating Commission that is considering applications for the  
34 vacancy for which the person is applying.

1 SECTION 12.2. APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES IN THE CIRCUIT OF COOK  
2 COUNTY

3 (a) The Supreme Court shall fill vacancies in the Circuit  
4 of Cook County, and any subcircuit thereof, from the nominees  
5 submitted by the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Circuit  
6 of Cook County or subcircuit thereof.

7 (b) The appropriate Judicial Nominating Commission shall  
8 investigate the qualifications of all applicants for the  
9 particular vacancy and, in particular, shall evaluate each  
10 applicant's character, background, temperament, professional  
11 aptitude, experience, intellect, integrity, sense of  
12 compassion, and commitment to equal justice under law. All  
13 applicants shall be considered for appointment by the Judicial  
14 Nominating Commission free from discrimination on the basis of  
15 race, color, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation,  
16 disability (so long as the applicant is able to perform the  
17 essential functions of a Judge), political party, or political  
18 affiliation. Within 49 days after the last day for applicants  
19 to file applications to fill the vacancy, the Judicial  
20 Nominating Commission shall submit to the Supreme Court and  
21 make public a list of the three best qualified nominees for the  
22 vacancy in alphabetical order, together with a written  
23 statement setting forth its evaluation of each of the three  
24 nominees, based on all of the criteria listed in this  
25 subsection.

26 (c) Upon receipt of the Judicial Nominating Commission's  
27 list of three nominees, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court  
28 shall promptly issue an order providing at least 28 days after  
29 the Supreme Court's receipt of the list of nominees for the  
30 submission of written public comment about the three nominees.  
31 All written comments shall be made public by the Director of  
32 the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts as soon as  
33 possible after they are received, except that the comments  
34 shall be deemed confidential and not be made public if the  
35 commenter so requests.

36 (d) No member of a Judicial Nominating Commission may be

1 appointed to State judicial office while serving on the  
 2 Commission or for a period of three years thereafter. The  
 3 Judicial Nominating Commission may not include on a list a  
 4 nominee who is on another list of nominees then pending before  
 5 the Supreme Court. The function of a list of nominees shall  
 6 terminate upon the making of the required appointment from the  
 7 list.

8 (e) The Supreme Court shall appoint an applicant to fill  
 9 the pending vacancy in the Circuit of Cook County no later than  
 10 14 days after the close of the public comment period provided  
 11 under subsection (c).

12 (f) A person appointed to fill a vacancy pursuant to this  
 13 Section shall serve an initial term as specified in Section 10.

14 (ILCON Art. VI, Sec. 12.3 new)

15 SECTION 12.3. JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSIONS

16 (a) In the Circuit of Cook County, a circuit-wide Judicial  
 17 Nominating Commission shall be created to nominate, from those  
 18 applicants who have applied for each at-large vacancy on the  
 19 Circuit Court for the Circuit of Cook County, three candidates  
 20 for each such vacancy. Separate Judicial Nominating  
 21 Commissions shall be created to nominate candidates from those  
 22 applicants who have applied for vacancies in each subcircuit of  
 23 the Circuit of Cook County.

24 (b) The circuit-wide Judicial Nominating Commission shall  
 25 consist of 15 members, eight of whom are not lawyers and seven  
 26 of whom are lawyers. Two of the non-lawyer members and four of  
 27 the lawyer members, all of whom shall be residents of the  
 28 Circuit of Cook County, shall be chosen from the Circuit of  
 29 Cook County at large. Two non-lawyer members and one lawyer  
 30 member shall be chosen from each of three subdistricts within  
 31 the Circuit of Cook County and they shall be residents of the  
 32 subdistrict from which they are chosen. The subdistricts shall  
 33 be determined on the basis of population by the General  
 34 Assembly in like manner to that provided for legislative  
 35 redistricting in Section 3 of Article IV.

1       A separate Judicial Nominating Commission shall be created  
2       for each judicial subcircuit within the Circuit of Cook County.  
3       Each subcircuit Judicial Nominating Commission shall consist  
4       of 11 members, six of whom are not lawyers and five of whom are  
5       lawyers. Three of the non-lawyer members and three of the  
6       lawyer members shall be residents of the subcircuit in which  
7       they serve. The remaining members shall be residents of the  
8       Circuit of Cook County, but need not be residents of the  
9       subcircuit in which they serve.

10       (c) Half of the non-lawyer members of each Judicial  
11       Nominating Commission shall be appointed by the Attorney  
12       General and the other half by the State official or officer  
13       first in the order indicated who was elected to office and is  
14       not affiliated with the same political party as the Attorney  
15       General: the Secretary of State, the Comptroller, the  
16       Treasurer, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
17       House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the  
18       Senate; provided that two of the resident non-lawyer members  
19       and one of the resident lawyer members of each subcircuit  
20       Judicial Nominating Commission shall be appointed by the  
21       President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and one  
22       resident non-lawyer member and two resident lawyer members of  
23       each subcircuit Judicial Nominating Commission shall be  
24       appointed by the member of the Cook County Board of  
25       Commissioners with the most seniority who is of another  
26       political party than the President of the Cook County Board of  
27       Commissioners.

28       (d) The lawyer members of each Judicial Nominating  
29       Commission, except the resident lawyer members of subcircuit  
30       Judicial Nominating Commissions, shall be selected by the  
31       Supreme Court pursuant to Supreme Court Rule. Not more than a  
32       simple majority of the lawyers appointed shall be primary  
33       electors of the same political party.

34       (e) Upon appointment of the initial non-lawyer members of  
35       each Judicial Nominating Commission, the Attorney General  
36       shall divide the appointees by lot into three groups equal in



1 number as near as may be within one of his or her appointees in  
2 each group and shall by lot designate the groups to serve  
3 initial terms of two, four, and six years, respectively. The  
4 initial lawyer members of each Judicial Nominating Commission  
5 shall also be divided by lot into three groups equal in number  
6 as near as may be and the groups shall by lot be designated to  
7 serve initial terms of two, four, and six years, respectively,  
8 all in such manner as provided by Supreme Court Rule.  
9 Thereafter, the terms of all Judicial Nominating Commission  
10 members shall be six years. No one who shall have served a term  
11 of more than two years as a member of a Judicial Nominating  
12 Commission shall be eligible to serve another term on a  
13 Judicial Nominating Commission for at least three years after  
14 the expiration of his or her original term.

15 (f) A vacancy in the non-lawyer membership of a Judicial  
16 Nominating Commission shall be filled for an unexpired term or  
17 for a full term, as the case may be, by the Attorney General,  
18 if qualified by being affiliated with the same political party  
19 as the official or officer who had appointed the person whose  
20 vacancy is to be filled, or otherwise by the State official or  
21 officer who is so qualified and first in the order indicated in  
22 subsection (c). A vacancy in the lawyer membership of a  
23 Judicial Nominating Commission shall be filled for an unexpired  
24 term or for a full term, as the case way be, by the Supreme  
25 Court pursuant to Supreme Court Rule.

26 (g) The Chair of each Judicial Nominating Commission shall  
27 be selected by majority vote of all members of the Commission.  
28 The term of a Chair shall be two years unless his or her term as  
29 a member of the Commission expires sooner.

30 (h) Any person who holds any office under the United  
31 States, this State, or any political subdivision, municipal  
32 corporation, or unit of local government of this State and  
33 receives compensation for services rendered in that office, or  
34 who holds any office or official position in a political party,  
35 shall be ineligible to serve on a Judicial Nominating  
36 Commission. Compensation for services in the State militia or

1 the armed services of the United States for a period of time as  
2 may be determined by Supreme Court Rule shall not be considered  
3 a disqualification. No member of a Judicial Nominating  
4 Commission may be appointed to judicial office while serving on  
5 the Commission or for a period of three years thereafter.

6 (i) Each Judicial Nominating Commission may conduct  
7 investigations, meetings, and hearings, all of which may be  
8 confidential, and employ staff members as may be necessary to  
9 perform its duties. Members of each Commission shall not  
10 receive any compensation for their services but shall be  
11 entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses. The General  
12 Assembly shall appropriate funds for that reimbursement and for  
13 all other administrative expenses of the Judicial Nominating  
14 Commissions.

15 (j) Nominations by a Judicial Nominating Commission of  
16 candidates for appointment to fill judicial vacancies shall be  
17 submitted to the Supreme Court only upon the concurrence of not  
18 less than three-fifths of all members of the Commission.

19 (k) All members of each Judicial Nominating Commission  
20 shall be subject to ethics and economic disclosure requirements  
21 as provided by law.

22 (ILCON Art. VI, Sec. 12.4 new)

23 SECTION 12.4. RETENTION PROCEDURES FOR JUDGES IN THE CIRCUIT OF  
24 COOK COUNTY

25 (a) No later than the first Monday in December of the  
26 calendar year before the year in which a term of a Judge of the  
27 Circuit of Cook County expires pursuant to Section 10, he or  
28 she may file in the office of the Director of the  
29 Administrative Office of Illinois Courts a declaration of  
30 candidacy for retention in that office. Any Judge of the  
31 Circuit of Cook County who holds office subsequent to the  
32 effective date of this Constitutional Amendment shall be  
33 eligible for retention in the office to which he or she was  
34 appointed. No later than 11 months before the general election  
35 next preceding the expiration of the term of office of a Judge

1 seeking retention, the Director of the Administrative Office of  
2 Illinois Courts shall notify the Chair of the appropriate  
3 Judicial Review Commission of the Judge's candidacy. The Chair  
4 shall then promptly convene the Commission.

5 (b) No later than 195 days before the general election to  
6 be held in that calendar year, each Judicial Review Commission  
7 shall issue a notice to the public and shall make all  
8 reasonable efforts to publicize the notice. The notice shall  
9 provide that any individual or organization shall have until at  
10 least 165 days before the general election in which to submit  
11 written comments about the performance of and capacity to  
12 continue serving of any Judge being considered for retention by  
13 the particular Judicial Review Commission. The Judicial Review  
14 Commission's notice to the public shall list the names and then  
15 current assignments of all Judges being considered by it for  
16 retention and shall provide an address to which written  
17 comments may be sent. All written comments shall be made public  
18 by the Director of the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts  
19 at the same time that the evaluations of the Judges and the  
20 Judicial Review Commission's written report on each Judge are  
21 made public pursuant to subsection (d), except that written  
22 comments shall not be made public if the commenter so requests.

23 (c) If by concurrence of not less than three-fifths of its  
24 members the Judicial Review Commission finds the candidate to  
25 be qualified to serve another term, the candidate shall be  
26 deemed retained in office for a full term commencing on the  
27 first Monday in December of that calendar year. The standard  
28 for determining qualifications to serve another term shall be  
29 the same used to determine whether a person shall be  
30 recommended to fill a vacancy pursuant to subsection (b) of  
31 Section 12.2.

32 All Judges shall be considered for retention by the  
33 Judicial Review Commission free from discrimination on the  
34 basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, sexual  
35 orientation, disability (so long as the Judge can perform the  
36 essential functions of a Judge), political party, or political

1 affiliation. Not less than 150 days before the general election  
2 to be held in that calendar year, the Judicial Review  
3 Commission shall submit to each candidate its finding as to  
4 whether the candidate is qualified or not qualified to serve  
5 another term. The Judicial Review Commission's finding shall  
6 include a written statement evaluating the candidate's  
7 performance in office during the term that is expiring and  
8 shall comment upon its assessment of the candidate's  
9 performance under all of the criteria set forth in subsection  
10 (b) of Section 12.2.

11 (d) Not less than 135 days before the election, the  
12 Judicial Review Commission shall submit to the Director of the  
13 Administrative Office of Illinois Courts a list stating by  
14 name: (i) which candidates it has found qualified to serve  
15 another term; (ii) which candidates it has found not qualified  
16 to serve another term; and (iii) which candidates have  
17 withdrawn their candidacy by written notification to the  
18 Judicial Review Commission. At the same time that the Judicial  
19 Review Commission tenders its list to the Director of the  
20 Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, the Judicial Review  
21 Commission shall also make its list public. In addition, the  
22 Judicial Review Commission shall make public its written  
23 evaluations, which it previously submitted to all of the  
24 candidates who sought retention, except for those candidates  
25 who withdrew their retention candidacies no later than 135 days  
26 before the general election.

27 (e) A Judge found not qualified for retention by a Judicial  
28 Review Commission shall have the right to stand for retention  
29 by the electorate at the general election. The Judge shall file  
30 in the office of the Secretary of State, not less than 135 days  
31 before the election, a declaration of candidacy for retention  
32 by the electorate. Not less than 115 days before the general  
33 election, the Secretary of State shall certify the Judge's  
34 candidacy to the proper election officials. At the election,  
35 the name of each Judge who has timely filed a declaration of  
36 candidacy for retention by the electorate shall be submitted to

1 the electorate, separately and without party designation, on  
2 the sole question of retention in office for another term.  
3 Retention elections shall be conducted at the same time as  
4 general elections. The affirmative vote of three-fifths of the  
5 electors voting on the question of retention shall be necessary  
6 to retain a Judge in that office for a full term commencing on  
7 the first Monday in December following the election.

8 (f) A Judge eligible to file a declaration of candidacy for  
9 retention who (i) fails to do so by the first Monday in  
10 December of the calendar year before the expiration of his or  
11 her then current term or (ii) declares his or her candidacy for  
12 retention and subsequently withdraws that candidacy pursuant  
13 to subsection (d) or fails of retention shall vacate the office  
14 on the first Monday in December following the general election  
15 held in that calendar year, whether or not a successor shall  
16 yet have been selected and qualified. If an incumbent Judge  
17 does not timely file a declaration of candidacy for retention  
18 or withdraws as a candidate 135 days or more before the next  
19 general election, the selection of a successor, if any, shall  
20 proceed immediately in the manner provided in Sections 12.1 and  
21 12.2 so that the successor may take office as soon as the  
22 vacancy occurs.

23 (g) An authorized reduction in the number of Judges in the  
24 Circuit of Cook County shall be without prejudice to the right  
25 of Judges in office at the time of the reduction to seek  
26 retention in accordance with this Section. The reduction shall  
27 become effective when a vacancy occurs in the Circuit of Cook  
28 County.

29 (ILCON Art. VI, Sec. 12.5 new)

30 SECTION 12.5. JUDICIAL REVIEW COMMISSIONS

31 (a) In the Circuit of Cook County, a Judicial Review  
32 Commission shall be created to determine qualifications for  
33 retention of Circuit Judges. A separate Judicial Review  
34 Commission shall be created for each subcircuit of the Circuit  
35 of Cook County to review the performance in office of any Judge

1 in the Circuit of Cook County who was originally elected by  
2 subcircuit rather than on an at-large basis.

3 (b) The members of a Judicial Review Commission shall be  
4 appointed as provided by subsections (b), (c), and (d) of  
5 Section 12.3 with respect to members of a Judicial Nominating  
6 Commission.

7 (c) The terms of all members of a Judicial Review  
8 Commission shall begin 11 months before the general election in  
9 each calendar year in which a general election is held and  
10 shall expire on the first Monday in November of the same  
11 calendar year. Appointments to a Judicial Review Commission may  
12 not be made earlier than 45 days before the term is to  
13 commence.

14 (d) A vacancy in the membership of a Judicial Review  
15 Commission shall be promptly filled as provided in subsection  
16 (f) of Section 12.3 with respect to vacancies on a Judicial  
17 Nominating Commission.

18 (e) The Chair of each Judicial Review Commission shall be  
19 elected by a majority vote of all of the members of the  
20 Commission. The term of a Chair shall be 11 months.

21 (f) Judicial Review Commissions shall be governed by the  
22 provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (h), (i),  
23 (j), and (k) of Section 12.3 with respect to Judicial  
24 Nominating Commissions, as well as by this Section.

25 SCHEDULE

26 This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being  
27 declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois  
28 Constitutional Amendment Act, except that Judicial Nominating  
29 Commissions shall be empaneled by the following April 1 and the  
30 Director of the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts shall  
31 not certify any judicial vacancies in the Circuit of Cook  
32 County until the following July 1. A vacancy occurring in any  
33 judicial office in the Circuit of Cook County may be filled,  
34 until that July 1, as provided in Section 12 of Article VI but  
35 only for a term ending upon the selection of a Judge to fill

1 the vacancy pursuant to Section 12.1.