

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SJR 43
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Bill Analysis

SJR 43 submits to the people a constitutional amendment repealing Article 7 and Article 7-B of the state constitution and adding Article 7-C. The amendment creates the Judicial Department, which shall consist of the Senate when it sits as a court of impeachment, a Supreme Court, a Court on the Judiciary, a Court of Criminal Appeals, and such inferior courts as the Legislature may from time to time ordain and establish. The Supreme Court shall be comprised of 8 justices and shall exercise appellate jurisdiction in the last resort in all cases or controversies, except criminal cases and controversies. Additionally, the Supreme Court is vested with administrative authority over all courts in the state. The Court of Criminal Appeals shall exercise appellate jurisdiction in the last resort for criminal cases. The measure provides that the Governor shall appoint each justice subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The measure establishes a 6-year term limit for justices, after which, each justice may seek to retain his or her office in a retention election.

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