

HB 2431 -- Complaints Against Judges

Sponsor: Walton

This bill requires any complaints submitted to the Commission on Retirement, Removal, and Discipline of Judges to also be referred to the House of Representatives which may concurrently investigate, hear, or dispose of, including issuing articles of impeachment, any complaints pending before the commission. Individuals submitting complaints to the commission must be notified by the commission of his or her right to file a de novo complaint with the House of Representatives for impeachment review, and any action taken by the commission will have no bearing on the power of the House of Representatives to issue articles of impeachment under Article VII, Section 1, of the Missouri Constitution or to censure, reprimand, or take any other appropriate action to discipline any judge.

The Joint Office on Judicial Investigations and Disciplinary Counsel is established to investigate and prosecute any complaints referred to the House of Representatives, any complaints of alleged violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct, or any complaints or matters referred to the commission. The joint office will have a board of directors consisting of the chairs of the commission and the Judiciary Committee and the Ethics Committee of the House of Representatives. The bill authorizes and establishes procedures for the investigation and prosecution of any complaints or violations before the commission or the House of Representatives. The joint office will operate under rules established by its board of directors or by law. All attorneys, investigators, staff, and employees of the commission on the effective date of the bill will become employees of the joint office and serve at the pleasure of its board.