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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

Offered January 20, 2000

Amending Rule 18 (c) of the Rules of the Senate, relating to judicial nominations.

Patrons—Edwards, Couric, Puckett, Puller, Reynolds, Ticer and Whipple

Referred to Committee on Rules

RESOLVED by the Senate, That Rule 18 (c) of the Rules of the Senate be amended and readopted as follows:

VI.

Standing Committees.

18 (c). A Committee for Courts of Justice, fifteen Senators, to consider matters relating to the Courts of the Commonwealth and the Justices and Judges thereof, including the nominations of such Justices and Judges where provided by the Constitution and statutes of Virginia; and all matters concerning the criminal laws of the Commonwealth; together with all matters concerning contracts, domestic relations, eminent domain, fiduciaries, garnishments, homestead and all other exemptions, magistrates, mechanics' and other liens, notaries public and out-of-state commissioners, property and conveyances, wills and decedents' estates.

It shall report to the Senate the names of such persons as it shall find qualified for election as a Justice or Judge of the Commonwealth. Senators, all or part of whose Senate Districts are within the Circuit or District for which a Judge is to be elected, shall jointly nominate a qualified person for such election. If such Senators are unable to agree on a nominee, any Senator may nominate a qualified person for such Circuit or District.

With respect to an election of a Justice to the Supreme Court of Virginia or a Judge to the Virginia Court of Appeals, the Committee shall interview and consider qualified candidates for election to such judicial positions. The Committee shall hold public hearings on the judicial selection and shall invite to participate in the public hearings organizations, groups, and individuals who have expressed interest in participating in the judicial selection process. After due deliberation, the Committee shall nominate a qualified candidate for such election and report such nomination to the Senate for its consideration. The Committee may nominate as many qualified candidates as it shall determine appropriate. Nomination by the Committee shall not preclude any Senator from nominating a qualified candidate on the floor for election by the Senate after the consideration of the Committee's nomination report.

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