COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION ADOPTED (Y/N)ADOPTED AS AMENDED (Y/N)ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION (Y/N)FAILED TO ADOPT (Y/N)WITHDRAWN (Y/N)OTHER

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee

Representative Maney offered the following:

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Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 101-161 and insert:

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27.511 Offices of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel; legislative intent; qualifications; appointment;

duties.-

Section 3. Subsections (2), (3), and (7) of section

27.511, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (10) is

(2) Each office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel shall be assigned to the Justice Administrative Commission for administrative purposes. The commission shall provide administrative support and service to the offices to the

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added to that section, to read:

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extent requested by each regional counsel within the available resources of the commission. The regional counsel and the offices are not subject to control, supervision, or direction by the commission in the performance of their duties, but the employees of the offices shall be governed by the classification plan and the salary and benefits plan for the commission.

(3)(a) Each regional counsel must be, and must have been for the preceding 5 years, a member in good standing of The Florida Bar. Each regional counsel shall be appointed by the Governor and is subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission, in addition to the current regional counsel, shall nominate recommend to the Governor the currently serving regional counsel, if he or she seeks reappointment, and may also nominate up to three not fewer than two or more than five additional qualified candidates for appointment to each of the five regional counsel positions for consideration by the Governor. The Governor shall appoint the regional counsel for the five regions from among the commission's nominations recommendations, or, if it is in the best interest of the fair administration of justice, the Governor may reject the nominations and request that the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission submit three new nominees. The regional counsel shall be appointed to a term of 4 years, the term beginning on October 1, 2015, with each successive term beginning on October 1 every 4 years thereafter. The nomination

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- and appointment process under this paragraph shall apply retroactively to the term beginning on October 1, 2019.

 Vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided in paragraph (b).
- (b) If for any reason a regional counsel is unable to complete a full term in office, the Governor may immediately appoint an interim regional counsel who meets the qualifications to be a regional counsel to serve as regional counsel for that region district until a new regional counsel is appointed in the manner provided in paragraph (a). The Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission shall provide the Governor with a list of nominees for appointment within 6 months after the date of the vacancy. A temporary vacancy in office does not affect the validity of any matters or activities of the office of regional counsel.
- (7) The court may not appoint the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel to represent, even on a temporary basis, any person who is not indigent, except to the extent that appointment of counsel is specifically provided for in chapters 390, 394, 415, 743, and 744 without regard to the indigent status of the person entitled to representation. If a defendant has retained private counsel, the court may not appoint the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel to represent that defendant simultaneously on the same case.

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TITLE AMENDMENT

Remove lines 7-19 and insert:

filing and receipt of court documents; amending s. 27.511, F.S.; removing the requirement that regional counsel employees be governed by Justice

Administrative Commission classification and salary and benefits plans; modifying procedures for the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission to nominate candidates to the Governor for regional counsel positions; specifying that the nomination and appointment process applies retroactively; prohibiting the court from appointing a regional counsel to represent a defendant who has retained private counsel; specifying

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