

2024

Student Government Association
Tennessee Technological University

SGA Bill S24-SB-002

An Act to Amend the Constitution to Allow Former Supreme Court Justices Who Are Current Senators to Temporarily Fill Vacancies on the Supreme Court If the Court Falls Below Quorum and No Alternates Are Available.

- Whereas,** the integrity and functionality of the Tennessee Technological University Student Government Association (SGA) Supreme Court are paramount to upholding the rule of law and ensuring fair and impartial justice within the student body; and,
- Whereas,** the Supreme Court's ability to operate is contingent upon reaching a quorum, which is essential for the deliberation and issuance of rulings on matters affecting the student body at large; and,
- Whereas,** unforeseen circumstances such as absences, resignations, or other factors can result in the Supreme Court falling below the required quorum, thereby hindering its ability to conduct its vital functions; and,
- Whereas,** the lack of a sufficient number of justices to form a quorum can lead to delays in the resolution of disputes, the enactment of policies, and the overall governance processes within the SGA, negatively impacting the student body; and,
- Whereas,** allowing a Tennessee Technological University SGA Senator who has previously served on the Supreme Court to fill in when the Court is below quorum and no alternates are available, ensures that the Supreme Court can continue its business without delay, maintaining the continuity of governance and justice; and,
- Whereas,** in light of the above considerations, it is both prudent and necessary to enact provisions that allow for the temporary appointment of qualified former Supreme Court members to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of the Supreme Court, safeguarding the interests of the student body and maintaining the integrity of the student government's judicial branch.

**NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TENNESSEE
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY THAT**

- Section 1:** This Bill shall be known as the “Supreme Court Continuity Act of 2024.”
- Section 2:** In Article VI Section 10 – Vacancies in Office, add the following statement, “In the event that a vacancy cannot be filled within this timeframe due to unforeseen circumstances or the lack of available qualified candidates, a former Supreme Court justice who is currently serving as an SGA Senator may be temporarily appointed to the Supreme Court by the President of the SGA, subject to approval by the Senate, to ensure the Court maintains quorum and can continue its essential functions. This temporary appointment shall last only until a permanent justice is appointed and approved, but in no case shall exceed a period of sixty (60) days, ensuring a diligent search for a permanent justice is conducted by the Judiciary Selection Committee.”
- Section 3:** In Article V Section 12 – Senate Capacity. Add “, except under special circumstances as outlined in Article VI Section 10 regarding vacancies in the Supreme Court.”
- Section 5:** This Bill shall take effect immediately following passage by the Student Government Association, the welfare of the students requiring it.

Respectfully Submitted By:
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Co-sponsor(s):
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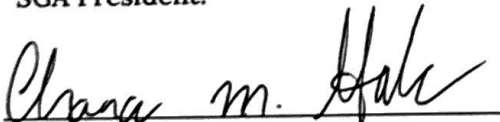
Committee Record

Committee Name:	Committee Secretary:	Status:
[Constitutional Committee]	[Augusta Long]	Passed

Senate Record

SGA Secretary:	Aye:	Nay:	Abstain:	Status:
Jeb MacLennan	22	0	0	Passed

SGA President:


Chance Hale