

Senator Malloy's Statement:

I voted against waiving screening hearings, pursuant to Section 2-19-40, for the judges screened for re-election and continued retired status, listed in the motion made to waive their appearance at the Public Hearing, as the investigation of these candidates did not reveal any significant issues to address, and no complaints were received. While I have no problems with the records of any of these judges and have confidence in their future service on the bench, I believe that each and every judge should have to be screened when they are offering for initial or continued service on the bench. Twenty minutes of time for a candidate with the Commission is not too much to ask in return for the benefits of being a judge as they generally have a six year term. The public deserves an open and transparent process wherein judges are put under oath and asked questions about their work ethic, prior service, and experience. This is the only chance the legislature has, as representatives of our constituents, to hear from judicial candidates and ask questions of them before entrusting them with the solemn duty of judging others. People should at least expect that a judge every few years comes before the Commission and explains their past service and asks for future service. Waiving a candidate forecloses that expectation of the people and the opportunity to hear a candidate in person and under oath. For that reason, I voted no.

