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**BILLE NA gCÚIRTEANNA AGUS NA nOIFIGEACH CÚIRTE (LEASÚ), 2020**

**COURT AND COURT OFFICERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020**

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**Bill**

*entitled*

An Act to provide that the Attorney General shall not be appointed to judicial office in the superior courts and that former Attorneys General who have left office shall not be appointed to judicial office in the superior courts for a period of at least two years after they have vacated their office.

**Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:**

**Interpretation**

**1.** In this Act—

“Act of 1995” means the Court and Court Officers Act 1995.

“the Minister” means the Minister for Justice.

**Amendment of section 18 of the Act of 1995**

**2.** (1) Section 18(2) of the Act of 1995 is amended to be read as follows:

(2) The Board may not recommend the appointment of the Attorney General for appointment as an ordinary judge of the Supreme Court, ordinary judge of the Court of Appeal or ordinary judge of the High Court; and may not recommend the appointment of a former Attorney General for appointment as an ordinary judge of the Supreme Court, ordinary judge of the Court of Appeal or ordinary judge of the High Court for a period of at least two years from the date they vacate their office.

(2) Section 18(3) of the Act of 1995 is amended to be read as follows:

(3) Where the Attorney General wishes to be considered for appointment as an ordinary judge of the Circuit Court, specialist judge of the Circuit Court, or judge of the District Court, he or she shall withdraw from any deliberations of the Board concerning his or her suitability.

**Short title and commencement**

**3.** (1) This Act may be cited as the Court and Court Officers (Amendment) Act 2020.

(2) This Act comes into operation on such day or days as the Minister may appoint by order.