
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8210

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Smith, McCaslin, Gaspard, Deccio, Wojahn, Snyder, Haugen, Morton, Long, Hale, Rinehart, Newhouse, Loveland, McDonald, Palmer, Bauer, Oke and Winsley; by request of Supreme Court)

Read first time 2/16/95.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there
4 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their
5 approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article IV,
6 section 3 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as
7 follows:

8 Article IV, section 3. The judges of the supreme court shall be
9 elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general
10 state election at the times and places at which state officers are
11 elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature. The
12 first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election
13 which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the
14 judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall
15 hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of five
16 years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by
17 the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of
18 government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified to
19 the secretary of state, and filed in his office. The ((judge having
20 ~~the shortest term to serve not holding his office by appointment or~~

1 ~~election to fill a vacancy, shall be))~~ supreme court shall select a
2 chief justice from its own membership to serve for a four-year term at
3 the pleasure of a majority of the court as prescribed by supreme court
4 rule. The chief justice(~~(, and))~~) shall preside at all sessions of the
5 supreme court(~~(, and in case there shall be two judges having in like~~
6 ~~manner the same short term, the other judges of the supreme court shall~~
7 ~~determine which of them shall be chief justice))~~). In case of the
8 absence of the chief justice, the (~~(judge having in like manner the~~
9 ~~shortest or next shortest term to serve shall preside))~~) majority of the
10 remaining court shall select one of their members to serve as acting
11 chief justice. After the first election the terms of judges elected
12 shall be six years from and after the second Monday in January next
13 succeeding their election. If a vacancy occur in the office of a judge
14 of the supreme court the governor shall only appoint a person to ensure
15 the number of judges as specified by the legislature, to hold the
16 office until the election and qualification of a judge to fill the
17 vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding general
18 election, and the judge so elected shall hold the office for the
19 remainder of the unexpired term. The term of office of the judges of
20 the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as the state
21 shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the term
22 herein provided, and until their successors are elected and qualified.
23 The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of
24 government until otherwise provided by law.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
26 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at
27 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in
28 every legal newspaper in the state.

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