
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4201

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Ferguson, Haugen, Horn, Roland, Wood, Zellinsky, D. Sommers, Winsley, Nealey, Nelson and Fraser.

Read first time January 14, 1991. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

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 XI of
6 the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding a new section to
7 read as follows:

8 Article XI, section ... In addition to the methods of framing a
9 county home rule charter which are contained in section 4 of this
10 Article, a charter may be framed as provided in this section. The
11 legislature shall without unreasonable delay enact legislation creating
12 and appropriating funds for a temporary county home rule commission of
13 fifteen members. The commission shall draft five alternative county
14 "Home Rule" charters, a copy of which shall be submitted to the
15 legislative authority of each county, and shall be retained by the

1 state in its permanent records. The commission shall exist not more
2 than one year. Commission members shall be appointed by the governor
3 with at least one-third of the members to consist of members of the
4 legislature and elected county officials. A new county home rule
5 commission with the same membership qualifications, which shall exist
6 no longer than a one-year period, shall be appointed by the governor to
7 redraft any of the alternative "Home Rule" charters whenever the
8 legislature enacts legislation calling for the creation of a new
9 temporary home rule commission. As far as practical, all commissions
10 created under this section shall be representative of major geographic
11 areas of the state and the state's demographic distribution.

12 A single alternative charter may be submitted at an election to
13 voters of any county for their approval and ratification, or rejection,
14 upon either: (1) An ordinance adopted by the county legislative
15 authority; or (2) the filing of a petition calling for an election
16 which is signed by registered voters of the county equal in number to
17 ten percent of the voters voting at the last preceding general election
18 in the county. Upon approval and ratification of a charter by the
19 voters of the county under this section, the charter shall become the
20 organic law of the county.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
22 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at
23 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in
24 every legal newspaper in the state and that the ballot title of the
25 foregoing constitutional amendment shall be: "Shall an additional
26 procedure be permitted to simplify the process by which a proposed
27 county charter is placed upon the ballot?"