

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8208

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Newhouse, Vognild, Hayner, Gaspard, McCaslin and McMullen.

Read first time January 24, 1991. Referred to Committee on
Governmental Operations.

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 I,
6 section 11, of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as
7 follows:

8 Article I, section 11. Absolute freedom of conscience in all
9 matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed
10 to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in
11 person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of
12 conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts
13 of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and
14 safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated
15 for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or
16 the support of any religious establishment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That

1 this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by
2 the state, its agencies, political subdivisions, or municipal
3 corporations, of ((a)) chaplains for such of ((~~the state~~)) their
4 custodial, correctional, and mental institutions, or hospitals and
5 other health care facilities, including hospices, as in the discretion
6 of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification
7 shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any
8 person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his
9 opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of
10 justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his
11 testimony.

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