
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4206

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Benton, Kessler, Buck, Schoesler, Goldsmith,
Sheahan, Dickerson, Mulliken and Boldt

Read first time 01/24/95. Referred to Committee on Government
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 II,
6 section 15 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as
7 follows:

8 Article II, section 15. (1) Such vacancies as may occur in
9 (~~either house of the legislature or in~~) any partisan county elective
10 office shall be filled by appointment by the board of county
11 commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That
12 the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same
13 (~~legislative district,~~) county or county commissioner district and
14 the same political party as the (~~legislator or~~) partisan county
15 elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of
16 three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of
17 that party, and in case a majority of said county commissioners do not
18 agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs,
19 the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of
20 nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the
21 same (~~legislative district,~~) county or county commissioner district

1 and of the same political party as the (~~legislator or~~) partisan
2 county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and the person
3 so appointed shall hold office until (~~his~~) a successor is elected at
4 the next general election, and shall have qualified(~~(: Provided, That~~
5 ~~in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint~~
6 ~~representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three~~
7 ~~nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the~~
8 ~~joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties~~
9 ~~composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the~~
10 ~~person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative~~
11 ~~district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office~~
12 ~~has been vacated, and in case a majority of said county commissioners~~
13 ~~do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy~~
14 ~~occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the~~
15 ~~list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be~~
16 ~~from the same legislative district and of the same political party as~~
17 ~~the legislator whose office has been vacated.))~~

18 (2)(a) A vacancy in either house of the legislature shall be filled
19 as follows:

20 (a) If the legislator whose office has been vacated was elected as
21 a member of a major political party, the vacancy shall be filled by
22 action of a majority of the precinct committee officers of that party
23 in precincts located in the legislative district. The person who is
24 appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative
25 district as the legislator whose office has been vacated and shall hold
26 office until a successor is elected at the next general election and
27 qualifies for the office. The authority to fill the vacancy under this
28 subsection (2)(a) shall be divested and the authority to fill the
29 vacancy shall be made under (b) of this subsection, if the precinct
30 committee officers fail to make the appointment within thirty days
31 after the vacancy occurred, if the vacancy occurred during a regular
32 legislative session, or within the shorter of thirty days after the
33 convening of a legislative session or sixty days after the vacancy
34 occurred, if the vacancy occurred before a regular legislative session.

35 (b) In all other instances, the vacancy shall be filled by
36 appointment by the county legislative authority of the county in which
37 the legislative district is located. If the legislative district is
38 located in more than one county, then the vacancy shall be filled by
39 appointment by members of the county legislative authorities of the

1 counties in which the legislative district is located, with the vote
2 distributed among the members of the county legislative authorities so
3 that the combined vote of all the members of a single county
4 legislative authority is in direct proportion to the percentage of
5 population of the legislative district who reside in that county and
6 each member of that county legislative authority receiving an equal
7 portion of that combined vote. The person who is appointed must be
8 from the same legislative district as the legislator whose office has
9 been vacated, without regard to political party, and shall hold office
10 until a successor is elected at the next general election and qualifies
11 for the office. The county legislative authorities shall fill the
12 vacancy within sixty days after the vacancy occurred, or within thirty
13 days after the authority to fill the vacancy reverts from (a) of this
14 subsection.

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

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