
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4209

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Representatives McMorris and Mulliken

Read first time 01/31/95. 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 XXII
6 of the Constitution of the state of Washington by repealing section 1
7 thereof in its entirety; and an amendment to Article II, sections 2, 6,
8 and 15 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as
9 follows:

10 Article II, section 2. The house of representatives shall be
11 composed of not less than sixty-three nor more than ninety-nine
12 members. The number of senators shall ~~((not be more than one-half nor
13 less than one-third of the number of members of the house of
14 representatives. The first legislature shall be composed of seventy
15 members of the house of representatives, and thirty-five senators))~~ be
16 equal to the number of counties.

17 Article II, section 6. After the first election the senators shall
18 be elected by ~~((single districts of convenient and contiguous
19 territory, at the same time and in the same manner as members of the
20 house of representatives are required to be elected; and no~~

1 ~~representative district shall be divided in the formation of a~~
2 ~~senatorial district))~~ county with one senator for each county. They
3 shall be elected for the term of four years, one-half of their number
4 retiring every two years. The ~~((senatorial districts))~~ counties shall
5 be ~~((numbered consecutively))~~ divided by lot as nearly evenly as
6 possible into two groups, and the senators chosen at the first election
7 had ~~((by virtue of this Constitution, in odd numbered districts,))~~
8 after the effective date of this amendment, in one group shall go out
9 of office at the end of the ~~((first))~~ second year; and the
10 senators~~((,))~~ elected in the ~~((even numbered districts,))~~ other group
11 shall go out of office at the end of the ~~((third))~~ fourth year.

12 Article II, section 15. Such vacancies as may occur in either
13 house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office
14 shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of
15 the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That the person
16 appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative
17 district, county, or county commissioner district and the same
18 political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer
19 whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who
20 shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party, and
21 in case a majority of ~~((said))~~ the county commissioners do not agree
22 upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the
23 governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of
24 nominees provided for ~~((herein))~~ in this section, appoint a person who
25 shall be from the same legislative district, county, or county
26 commissioner district and of the same political party as the legislator
27 or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and
28 the person so appointed shall hold office until his or her successor is
29 elected at the next general election, and shall have qualified:
30 *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of ~~((joint~~
31 ~~senator, or joint))~~ representative from a district including territory
32 from more than one county, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of
33 three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment
34 by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the
35 counties composing the ~~((joint senatorial or joint))~~ representative
36 district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the
37 same legislative district and of the same political party as the
38 legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of
39 ~~((said))~~ the county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment

1 within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within
2 thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for
3 ((herein)) in this section, appoint a person who shall be from the same
4 legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator
5 whose office has been vacated.

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

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment shall be
11 construed as a single amendment within the meaning of Article XXIII,
12 section 1 of the state Constitution.

13 The legislature finds that the changes contained in the foregoing
14 amendment constitute a single integrated plan for electing senators by
15 county. If the foregoing amendment is held to be separate amendments,
16 this joint resolution shall be void in its entirety and shall be of no
17 further force and effect.

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