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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8204**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senators McCaslin and Haugen

Read first time 01/14/97. 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 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 committee of  
13 fifteen members. The committee 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  
16 state in its permanent records. Any of the five alternative charters  
17 may include any alternative article or proposition which is presented  
18 for the choice of voters and may be voted on separately without  
19 prejudice to others. The committee shall exist not more than one year.  
20 Committee members shall be appointed by the governor with at least one-

1 third of the members to consist of members of the legislature and  
2 elected county officials. A new county home rule committee with the  
3 same membership qualifications, which shall exist no longer than a one-  
4 year period, shall be appointed by the governor to redraft any of the  
5 alternative "Home Rule" charters whenever the legislature enacts  
6 legislation calling for the creation of a new temporary home rule  
7 committee. As far as practical, all committees created under this  
8 section shall be representative of major geographic areas of the state  
9 and the state's demographic distribution.

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

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

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