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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4210

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Wensman and DeBolt

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

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 the  
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state  
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to  
6 Article XXVIII, section 1 of the Constitution of the state of  
7 Washington to read as follows:

8            Article XXVIII, section 1.    (1) Salaries for members of the  
9 legislature, elected officials of the executive branch of state  
10 government, and judges of the state's supreme court, court of appeals,  
11 superior courts, and district courts shall be fixed by an independent  
12 commission created and directed by law to that purpose. No state  
13 official, public employee, or person required by law to register with  
14 a state agency as a lobbyist, or immediate family member of the  
15 official, employee, or lobbyist, may be a member of that commission.

16            As used in this section the phrase "immediate family" has the  
17 meaning that is defined by law.

18            (2) Any change of salary shall be filed with the secretary of state  
19 and shall become law ninety days thereafter without action of the  
20 legislature or governor, but shall be subject to referendum petition by

1 the people, filed within the ninety-day period. Referendum measures  
2 under this section shall be submitted to the people at the next  
3 following general election, and shall be otherwise governed by the  
4 provisions of this Constitution generally applicable to referendum  
5 measures. The salaries fixed pursuant to this section shall supersede  
6 any other provision for the salaries of members of the legislature,  
7 elected officials of the executive branch of state government, and  
8 judges of the state's supreme court, court of appeals, superior courts,  
9 and district courts. The salaries for such officials in effect on  
10 January 12, 1987, shall remain in effect until changed pursuant to this  
11 section.

12 (3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the  
13 legislature, as it deems necessary, and subject to the veto of the  
14 governor, may reduce by two percent, or a lesser percentage, the  
15 salaries in effect at the time for members of the legislature and  
16 elected officials of the executive branch of state government. The  
17 salaries established under this subsection remain in effect until  
18 changed by the legislature or by the independent commission under  
19 subsections (1) and (2) of this section, whichever occurs first.

20 (4) After the initial adoption of a law by the legislature creating  
21 the independent commission, no amendment to such act which alters the  
22 composition of the commission shall be valid unless the amendment is  
23 enacted by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members elected to  
24 each house of the legislature and is subject to referendum petition.

25 (5) The provisions of section 14 of Article IV, sections 14, 16,  
26 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22 of Article III, and section 23 of Article II,  
27 insofar as they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby superseded. The  
28 provisions of section 1 of Article II relating to referendum  
29 procedures, insofar as they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby  
30 superseded with regard to the salaries governed by this section.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
32 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four  
33 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal  
34 newspaper in the state.

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