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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8209

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senator Deccio

Read first time 03/03/1999. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

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. 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 Salaries for members of the legislature shall be fixed by the  
17 commission at forty percent of the salary fixed for the governor.

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

20 Any change of salary shall be filed with the secretary of state and  
21 shall become law ninety days thereafter without action of the

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

13 After the initial adoption of a law by the legislature creating the  
14 independent commission, no amendment to such act which alters the  
15 composition of the commission shall be valid unless the amendment is  
16 enacted by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members elected to  
17 each house of the legislature and is subject to referendum petition.

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20 insofar as they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby superseded.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23 superseded with regard to the salaries governed by this section.

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

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