
SENATE BILL 5046

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators McCaslin and T. Sheldon

Read first time 01/08/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to election of supreme court justices; amending RCW
2 2.04.071 and 2.04.100; adding a new section to chapter 2.04 RCW; and
3 providing a contingent effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.04.071 and 1971 c 81 s 1 are each amended to read as
6 follows:

7 At the next general election, and at each biennial general election
8 thereafter, there shall be elected three justices of the supreme court,
9 one from each of the three supreme court judicial districts, to hold
10 for the full term of six years, and until their successors are elected
11 and qualified, commencing with the second Monday in January succeeding
12 their election.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.04.100 and 1971 c 81 s 3 are each amended to read as
14 follows:

15 If a vacancy occurs in the office of a justice of the supreme
16 court, the governor shall appoint a person who is a resident of the
17 supreme court judicial district for which the vacancy occurs to hold
18 the office until the election and qualification of a justice to fill

1 the vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding
2 general election, and the justice so elected shall hold the office for
3 the remainder of the unexpired term.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 2.04 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 Prior to January 1, 2003, the secretary of state, in cooperation
7 with the chief justice, shall assign by lot each supreme court judicial
8 position to be filled in November 2004 to a judicial district, and in
9 a similar manner shall also assign by lot each judicial position to be
10 filled in November 2006 and in November 2008 to a supreme court
11 judicial district, so that one justice from each supreme court judicial
12 district is elected at each biennial general election.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act take effect
14 January 1, 2004 if the proposed amendment to Article IV, section 3 of
15 the state Constitution providing for the election of supreme court
16 justices from judicial districts (SJR 8201) is validly submitted to and
17 is approved and ratified by the votes at the next general election. If
18 the proposed amendment is not approved and ratified, this act is void
19 in its entirety.

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