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**SENATE BILL 5785**

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**State of Washington                      57th Legislature                      2001 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kline, Constantine, Sheahan, Kohl-Welles and Prentice

Read first time 02/02/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to qualifications of judges; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 2.04 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 2.08  
3 RCW; creating a new section; and providing a contingent effective  
4 date.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 2.04 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8            A judge of the supreme court shall be admitted to the practice  
9 of law in the courts of record of this state not less than fifteen  
10 years prior to taking office.

11           NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 2.08 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13           A judge of a superior court shall be admitted to the practice  
14 of law in the courts of record of this state not less than five  
15 years prior to taking office.

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17           NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.** If a judge currently holding office does

1 not meet the minimum qualifications specified in this act on the  
2 effective date of this act, the judge may complete his or her  
3 current term of office.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect thirty days after  
5 election if the proposed amendment to Article IV, section 17 of  
6 the state Constitution specifying qualifications for judges is  
7 validly submitted to and is approved and ratified by the voters at  
8 the next general election. If the proposed amendment is not  
9 approved and ratified, this act is void in its entirety.

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