
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8202

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Senators McCaslin, Rossi and T. Sheldon

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

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 IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to
7 read as follows:

8 Article IV, section 3. (~~The judges~~) A justice of the supreme
9 court shall be elected by the qualified electors of (~~the state at~~
10 ~~large~~) a supreme court judicial district at the general state election
11 at the times and places at which state officers are elected, unless
12 some other time be provided by the legislature. (~~The first election~~
13 ~~of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election which shall be~~
14 ~~held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the judges elected~~
15 ~~thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall hold their office~~
16 ~~for the term of three years, two for the term of five years, and one~~
17 ~~for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by the judges who~~
18 ~~shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of government, and they~~
19 ~~shall cause the result thereof to be certified to the secretary of~~
20 ~~state, and filed in his office.)) Each justice of the supreme court
21 must be a resident of the supreme court judicial district for which he~~

1 or she is elected or appointed for not less than one year at the time
2 of election or appointment. There shall be nine supreme court judicial
3 districts in the state. One justice shall be elected from each supreme
4 court judicial district. The supreme court judicial districts shall be
5 coextensive with the congressional districts if there are nine
6 congressional districts. The redistricting commission shall provide
7 for nine supreme court judicial districts if there are other than nine
8 congressional districts. Each supreme court judicial position shall be
9 assigned by lot to a judicial district by the secretary of state as
10 provided by statute.

11 The supreme court shall select a chief justice from its own
12 membership to serve for a four-year term at the pleasure of a majority
13 of the court as prescribed by supreme court rule. The chief justice
14 shall preside at all sessions of the supreme court. In case of the
15 absence of the chief justice, the majority of the remaining court shall
16 select one of their members to serve as acting chief justice. After
17 the first election the terms of judges elected shall be six years from
18 and after the second Monday in January next succeeding their election.
19 If a vacancy occurs in the office of ~~((a judge))~~ justice of the supreme
20 court the governor shall ~~((only))~~ appoint a person ~~((to ensure the~~
21 ~~number of judges as specified by the legislature,))~~ from the supreme
22 court judicial district where the vacancy occurred to hold the office
23 until the election and qualification of a ~~((judge))~~ justice to fill the
24 vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding general
25 election, and the ~~((judge))~~ justice so elected shall hold the office
26 for the remainder of the unexpired term. ~~((The term of office of the~~
27 ~~judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as~~
28 ~~the state shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the~~
29 ~~term herein provided, and until their successors are elected and~~
30 ~~qualified.))~~

31 The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of
32 government until otherwise provided by law.

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

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