
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8200

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Deccio

Read first time 01/10/2005. 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 of the supreme court shall be
9 elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general
10 state election at the times and places at which state officers are
11 elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature. The
12 first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election
13 which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the
14 judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall
15 hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of five
16 years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by
17 the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of
18 government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified to
19 the secretary of state, and filed in his office. The supreme court

1 shall select a chief justice from its own membership to serve for a
2 four-year term at the pleasure of a majority of the court as prescribed
3 by supreme court rule. The chief justice shall preside at all sessions
4 of the supreme court. In case of the absence of the chief justice, the
5 majority of the remaining court shall select one of their members to
6 serve as acting chief justice. After the first election the terms of
7 judges elected shall be six years from and after the second Monday in
8 January next succeeding their election. If a vacancy occurs in the
9 office of a judge of the supreme court the governor shall only appoint
10 a person as provided by statute to ensure the number of judges as
11 specified by the legislature, to hold the office until the election and
12 qualification of a judge to fill the vacancy, which election shall take
13 place at the next succeeding general election, and the judge so elected
14 shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term. The
15 term of office of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall
16 commence as soon as the state shall have been admitted into the Union,
17 and continue for the term herein provided, and until their successors
18 are elected and qualified. The sessions of the supreme court shall be
19 held at the seat of government until otherwise provided by law.

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

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