
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4223

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives B. Sullivan, Rodne, Appleton, Sommers and Ormsby

Read first time 02/09/2007. 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)) appointed by the ((qualified electors of the state at large
10 at the general state election at the times and places at which state
11 officers are elected, unless some other time be provided by the
12 legislature. The first election of judges of the supreme court shall
13 be at the election which shall be held upon the adoption of this
14 Constitution and the judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot,
15 so that two shall hold their office for the term of three years, two
16 for the term of five years, and one for the term of seven years. The
17 lot shall be drawn by the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at
18 the seat of government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be
19 certified to the secretary of state, and filed in his office)) governor

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

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

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