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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8212

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senator Tom

Read first time 01/28/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

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 III, sections 1, 3, 10, 22, and 24 of the Constitution of the  
7 state of Washington to read as follows:

8 Article III, section 1. The executive department shall consist of  
9 a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer,  
10 auditor, attorney general, (~~superintendent of public instruction,~~)  
11 and a commissioner of public lands, who shall be severally chosen by  
12 the qualified electors of the state at the same time and place of  
13 voting as for the members of the legislature.

14 Article III, section 3. The lieutenant governor, secretary of  
15 state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, (~~superintendent of public  
16 instruction,~~) and commissioner of public lands, shall hold their  
17 offices for four years respectively, and until their successors are  
18 elected and qualified.

19 Article III, section 10. In case of the removal, resignation,

1 death or disability of the governor, the duties of the office shall  
2 devolve upon the lieutenant governor; and in case of a vacancy in both  
3 the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, the duties of the  
4 governor shall devolve upon the secretary of state. In addition to the  
5 line of succession to the office and duties of governor as hereinabove  
6 indicated, if the necessity shall arise, in order to fill the vacancy  
7 in the office of governor, the following state officers shall succeed  
8 to the duties of governor and in the order named, viz.: Treasurer,  
9 auditor, attorney general, (~~superintendent of public instruction~~) and  
10 commissioner of public lands. In case of the death, disability,  
11 failure or refusal of the person regularly elected to the office of  
12 governor to qualify at the time provided by law, the duties of the  
13 office shall devolve upon the person regularly elected to and qualified  
14 for the office of lieutenant governor, who shall act as governor until  
15 the disability be removed, or a governor be elected; and in case of the  
16 death, disability, failure or refusal of both the governor and the  
17 lieutenant governor elect to qualify, the duties of the governor shall  
18 devolve upon the secretary of state; and in addition to the line of  
19 succession to the office and duties of governor as hereinabove  
20 indicated, if there shall be the failure or refusal of any officer  
21 named above to qualify, and if the necessity shall arise by reason  
22 thereof, then in that event in order to fill the vacancy in the office  
23 of governor, the following state officers shall succeed to the duties  
24 of governor in the order named, viz: Treasurer, auditor, attorney  
25 general, (~~superintendent of public instruction~~) and commissioner of  
26 public lands. Any person succeeding to the office of governor as in  
27 this section provided, shall perform the duties of such office only  
28 until the disability be removed, or a governor be elected and  
29 qualified; and if a vacancy occur more than thirty days before the next  
30 general election occurring within two years after the commencement of  
31 the term, a person shall be elected at such election to fill the office  
32 of governor for the remainder of the unexpired term.

33 Article III, section 22. The superintendent of public instruction  
34 shall have supervision over all matters pertaining to public schools,  
35 and shall perform such specific duties as may be prescribed by law.  
36 The governor shall have oversight over the superintendent of public  
37 instruction and ultimate authority over the public schools. ((He)) The

1 superintendent shall receive an annual salary of twenty-five hundred  
2 dollars, which may be increased by law, but shall never exceed four  
3 thousand dollars per annum.

4 Article III, section 24. The governor, secretary of state,  
5 treasurer, auditor, (~~superintendent of public instruction,~~)  
6 commissioner of public lands, and attorney general shall severally keep  
7 the public records, books and papers relating to their respective  
8 offices, at the seat of government, at which place also the governor,  
9 secretary of state, treasurer and auditor shall reside.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment  
11 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state  
12 Constitution.

13 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this amendment  
14 constitute a single integrated plan for eliminating the superintendent  
15 of public instruction as a statewide elected official. If this  
16 amendment is held to be separate amendments, this joint resolution is  
17 void in its entirety and is of no further force and effect.

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

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