
HOUSE BILL 1928

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Abell, Couture, Marshall, Chase, Barnard, Keaton,
and Griffey

Read first time 02/10/25. Referred to Committee on Civil Rights &
Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring senate confirmation of gubernatorial
2 appointments to vacancies on the supreme court; amending RCW
3 2.04.100, 43.06.092, and 43.06.094; and providing a contingent
4 effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.04.100 and 1971 c 81 s 3 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) If a vacancy occurs in the office of a justice of the supreme
9 court, the governor shall appoint a person to ((hold)) the office
10 subject to confirmation by the senate as provided in this section.

11 (2) If the appointment is made during a regular legislative
12 session, the senate must hold the vote to confirm or reject the
13 appointment prior to the adjournment of the session.

14 (3) If the appointment is made during a special session or while
15 the legislature is not in session, the senate must hold the vote to
16 confirm or reject the appointment at the earlier of either a special
17 session convened for the purpose of holding the vote or the next
18 regularly scheduled legislative session following the appointment.

19 (4) An affirmative vote by at least two-thirds of all members
20 elected to the senate is required to confirm an appointee.

1 (5) An appointee who is confirmed by the senate shall hold the
2 office until the election and qualification of a justice to fill the
3 vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding
4 general election, and the justice so elected shall hold the office
5 for the remainder of the unexpired term.

6 (6) An appointee who is rejected by the vote of the senate may
7 not be reappointed to the same office for a period of at least two
8 calendar years from the date of the senate vote.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.06.092 and 1981 c 338 s 2 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) (~~Any~~) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of
12 this section, any gubernatorial appointee subject to senate
13 confirmation shall continue to serve unless rejected by a vote of the
14 senate. An appointee who is rejected by a vote of the senate shall
15 not be reappointed to the same position for a period of one year from
16 termination of service.

17 (2) Any person appointed by the governor to fill the unexpired
18 term of an appointment subject to senate confirmation must also be
19 confirmed by the senate.

20 (3) This section does not apply to gubernatorial appointees to
21 fill judicial vacancies as provided for in RCW 2.04.100.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.06.094 and 1981 c 338 s 1 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Gubernatorial appointees subject to senate confirmation, other
25 than those who serve at the governor's pleasure and other than those
26 appointed to fill judicial vacancies as provided for in RCW 2.04.100,
27 may not be removed from office without cause by the governor prior to
28 confirmation except upon consent of the senate as provided for by the
29 rules of the senate.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect January 1, 2026, if
31 the proposed amendment to Article IV, section 3 of the state
32 Constitution providing for senate confirmation of gubernatorial
33 appointments to vacancies on the supreme court (House Joint
34 Resolution No. . . . (H-1236/25)) is validly submitted to and is
35 approved and ratified by the voters at the next general election. If

1 the proposed amendment is not approved and ratified, this act is void
2 in its entirety.

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