
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4201

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Halpern, Rodne, Muri, Stokesbary, Klippert, Shea, Taylor, Buys, Condotta, Manweller, McCaslin, and Wilson

Read first time 01/19/15. 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
7 to 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
11 election at the times and places at which state officers are elected,
12 unless some other time be provided by the legislature. (~~The first~~
13 ~~election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election~~
14 ~~which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the~~
15 ~~judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall~~
16 ~~hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of~~
17 ~~five years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be~~
18 ~~drawn by the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat~~
19 ~~of government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be~~
20 ~~certified to the secretary of state, and filed in his office.)) Each
21 justice of the supreme court must be a resident of the supreme court
22 judicial district for which he or she is elected or appointed for not~~

1 less than one year at the time of election or appointment. There
2 shall be three supreme court judicial districts in the state. Three
3 justices shall be elected from supreme court judicial district 1,
4 which shall consist of King, Snohomish, Island, San Juan, Skagit, and
5 Whatcom counties. Three justices shall be elected from supreme court
6 judicial district 2, which shall consist of Pierce, Clallam, Grays
7 Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Thurston, Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis,
8 Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties. Three justices shall be
9 elected from supreme court judicial district 3, which shall consist
10 of Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Adams,
11 Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Walla Walla,
12 Whitman, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima counties.
13 The legislature may change the composition of a supreme court
14 judicial district by statute. Each supreme court judicial position
15 shall be assigned by lot to a judicial district by the secretary of
16 state as provided by statute.

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

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

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

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