
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8205

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Padden, Bailey, Sheldon, Ericksen, and Hewitt

Read first time 01/29/15. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

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 at the general state election at the times and places at which
11 state officers are elected, unless some other time be provided by the
12 legislature. (~~The first election of judges of the supreme court
13 shall be at the election which shall be held upon the adoption of
14 this Constitution and the judges elected thereat shall be classified
15 by lot, so that two shall hold their office for the term of three
16 years, two for the term of five years, and one for the term of seven
17 years. The lot shall be drawn by the judges who shall for that
18 purpose assemble at the seat of government, and they shall cause the
19 result thereof to be certified to the secretary of state, and filed
20 in his office.~~) For a primary election, a justice of the supreme
21 court shall be elected by a supreme court judicial district. Each
22 justice of the supreme court must be a resident of the supreme court
23 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. Four
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. Two 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. The supreme court shall select a chief
17 justice from its own membership to serve for a four-year term at the
18 pleasure of a majority of the court as prescribed by supreme court
19 rule. The chief justice shall preside at all sessions of the supreme
20 court. In case of the absence of the chief justice, the majority of
21 the remaining court shall select one of their members to serve as
22 acting chief justice. After the first election the terms of judges
23 elected shall be six years from and after the second Monday in
24 January next succeeding their election. If a vacancy occurs in the
25 office of a ((judge)) justice of the supreme court the governor shall
26 ((only)) appoint a person ((to ensure the number of judges as
27 specified by the legislature)) from the supreme court judicial
28 district where the vacancy occurred, to hold the office until the
29 election and qualification of a ((judge)) justice to fill the
30 vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding
31 general election, and the ((judge)) justice so elected shall hold the
32 office for the remainder of the unexpired term. ((The term of office
33 of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as
34 soon as the state shall have been admitted into the Union, and
35 continue for the term herein provided, and until their successors are
36 elected and qualified.)) The sessions of the supreme court shall be
37 held at the seat of government until otherwise provided by law.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
39 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four

1 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every
2 legal newspaper in the state.

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