
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8208

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Governmental Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Newhouse, Vognild, Hayner, Gaspard, McCaslin and McMullen).

Read first time February 19, 1991.

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 there
4 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their
5 approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article I,
6 section 11, of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as
7 follows:

8 Article I, section 11. Absolute freedom of conscience in all
9 matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed
10 to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in
11 person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of
12 conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts
13 of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and
14 safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated
15 for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or
16 the support of any religious establishment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That

1 this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by
2 the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial, correctional,
3 and mental institutions, or by a public hospital district's hospital,
4 health facility, or hospice as in the discretion of the legislature may
5 seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any
6 public office or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a
7 witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion,
8 nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief
9 to affect the weight of his testimony.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
11 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at
12 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in
13 every legal newspaper in the state.