
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4201

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Campbell, Smith, Hargrove and Schoesler

Read first time 01/13/95. Referred to Committee on Law and 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 there
4 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their
5 approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article IV,
6 section 3 of the Constitution of the state of Washington; and an
7 amendment to Article II of the Constitution of the state of Washington
8 by adding a new section to read as follows:

9 Article II, section _____. (1) Except as provided in this
10 subsection: No person is eligible to be elected or appointed to serve
11 more than eight years in the same state-wide elective office of the
12 judicial or executive branch of state government; no person is eligible
13 to be elected or appointed to serve more than eight years as a judge of
14 the court of appeals; no person is eligible to be elected or appointed
15 to serve more than eight years as a judge of the superior court; no
16 person is eligible to be elected or appointed to serve more than eight
17 years as a member of the state's house of representatives; and no
18 person is eligible to be elected or appointed to serve more than eight
19 years as a member of the state's senate.

1 If four years have elapsed between the time a person last served in
2 an office governed by this section and the time the person would again
3 serve in the office, the person's service in that office prior to those
4 four years is not counted in determining the person's eligibility to
5 serve in the office under this section. For any office governed by
6 this section other than the office of governor, lieutenant governor,
7 member of the state's house of representatives, or member of the
8 state's senate, a person's service in any term of the office initiated
9 prior to the effective date of this section is not counted in
10 determining the person's eligibility to serve in the office under this
11 section. The lieutenant governor's performance of the duties of
12 governor in the governor's absence is not counted in determining the
13 lieutenant governor's eligibility to serve as governor under this
14 section.

15 (2) No person who holds one office governed by subsection (1) of
16 this section may, while holding that office, file as a candidate for
17 any other office governed by this section, unless the person is in the
18 last year of the full term of the office. Nothing in this subsection
19 prevents a person from resigning one office to file as a candidate for
20 another office.

21 Article IV, section 3. The judges of the supreme court shall be
22 elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general
23 state election at the times and places at which state officers are
24 elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature. The
25 first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election
26 which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the
27 judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall
28 hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of five
29 years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by
30 the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of
31 government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified to
32 the secretary of state, and filed in his office. The judge having the
33 shortest term to serve not holding his office by appointment or
34 election to fill a vacancy, shall be the chief justice, and shall
35 preside at all sessions of the supreme court, and in case there shall
36 be two judges having in like manner the same short term, the other
37 judges of the supreme court shall determine which of them shall be
38 chief justice. In case of the absence of the chief justice, the judge

1 having in like manner the shortest or next shortest term to serve shall
2 preside. After the first election and prior to the election held in
3 nineteen hundred and ninety-six, the terms of judges elected shall be
4 six years. Beginning with the election held in nineteen hundred and
5 ninety-six, the term of office of each judge of the supreme court
6 elected to a full term shall be four years. The terms of office of the
7 judges are from and after the second Monday in January next succeeding
8 their election. If a vacancy occurs in the office of a judge of the
9 supreme court the governor shall appoint a person to hold the office
10 until the election and qualification of a judge to fill the vacancy,
11 which election shall take place at the next succeeding general
12 election, and the judge so elected shall hold the office for the
13 remainder of the unexpired term. The term of office of the judges of
14 the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as the state
15 shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the term
16 herein provided, and until their successors are elected and qualified.
17 The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of
18 government until otherwise provided by law.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment shall be
20 construed as a single amendment within the meaning of Article XXIII,
21 section 1 of the state Constitution.

22 The legislature finds that the changes contained in the foregoing
23 amendment constitute a single integrated plan for revising procedures
24 for filling vacancies in state legislative and county elective offices.
25 If the foregoing amendment is held to be separate amendments, this
26 joint resolution shall be void in its entirety and shall be of no
27 further force and effect.

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

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