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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4206

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Chandler, Linville, Sump, L. Thomas, Schoesler, Reams, Appelwick, McMorris, Veloria, Thompson, Kessler and Mulliken

Read first time 01/28/97.      Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

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 I, section 11 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to  
7 read as 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  
17 this article shall not be so construed as to forbid: (1) The  
18 employment by the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial,

1 correctional, and mental institutions, or by a county's or public  
2 hospital district's hospital, health care facility, or hospice, as in  
3 the discretion of the legislature may seem justified; or (2) the  
4 employment by the state or a county, city, town, or special district of  
5 a chaplain for law enforcement agencies, fire suppression agencies, or  
6 emergency medical response agencies, as in the discretion of the  
7 legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be  
8 required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person be  
9 incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on  
10 matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching  
11 his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony.

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

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