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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4207

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives McMorris, Sump, Schoesler, Mulliken, Koster, Boldt, Smith, Mielke, Sterk, Pennington, Sherstad and Dunn

Read first time 01/29/97.      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 XXII of the Constitution of the state of Washington by  
7 repealing section 1 in its entirety; and an amendment to Article II,  
8 sections 2, 6, and 15 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to  
9 read as follows:

10           Article II, section 2. The house of representatives shall be  
11 composed of not less than sixty-three nor more than ninety-nine  
12 members. The number of senators shall ~~((not be more than one-half nor  
13 less than one-third of the number of members of the house of  
14 representatives. The first legislature shall be composed of seventy  
15 members of the house of representatives, and thirty-five senators))~~ be  
16 equal to the number of counties.

17           Article II, section 6. After the first election the senators shall  
18 be elected by ~~((single districts of convenient and contiguous  
19 territory, at the same time and in the same manner as members of the  
20 house of representatives are required to be elected; and no~~

1 ~~representative district shall be divided in the formation of a~~  
2 ~~senatorial district))~~ county with one senator for each county. They  
3 shall be elected for the term of four years, one-half of their number  
4 retiring every two years. The ~~((senatorial districts))~~ counties shall  
5 be ~~((numbered consecutively))~~ divided by lot as nearly evenly as  
6 possible into two groups, and the senators chosen at the first election  
7 ~~((had by virtue of this Constitution, in odd numbered districts,))~~  
8 after the effective date of this amendment, in one group shall go out  
9 of office at the end of the ((first)) second year; and the  
10 senators((,)) elected in the ((even numbered districts,)) other group  
11 shall go out of office at the end of the ((third)) fourth year.

12 Article II, section 15. Such vacancies as may occur in either  
13 house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office  
14 shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of  
15 the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That the person  
16 appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative  
17 district, county or county commissioner district and the same political  
18 party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose  
19 office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be  
20 nominated by the county central committee of that party, and in case a  
21 majority of ~~((said))~~ the county commissioners do not agree upon the  
22 appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor  
23 shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees  
24 provided for ~~((herein))~~ in this section, appoint a person who shall be  
25 from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner  
26 district and of the same political party as the legislator or partisan  
27 county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and the person  
28 so appointed shall hold office until his or her successor is elected at  
29 the next general election, and shall have qualified: *Provided*, That in  
30 case of a vacancy occurring in the office of ~~((joint senator, or~~  
31 ~~joint))~~ representative from a district including territory from more  
32 than one county, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three  
33 nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the  
34 joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties  
35 composing the ~~((joint senatorial or joint))~~ representative district,  
36 the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same  
37 legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator  
38 whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of ~~((said))~~ the  
39 county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment within sixty

1 days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days  
2 thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for ((~~herein~~)) in  
3 this section, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative  
4 district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office  
5 has been vacated.

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

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment  
11 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state  
12 Constitution.

13 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this amendment  
14 constitute a single integrated plan for electing senators by county.  
15 If this amendment is held to be separate amendments, this joint  
16 resolution is void in its entirety and is of no further force and  
17 effect.

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