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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4214

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Lantz, Barlean, Kastama, Hurst and Sullivan

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

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 5 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to  
7 read as follows:

8            Article IV, section 5. There shall be in each of the organized  
9 counties of this state a superior court for which at least one judge  
10 shall be elected by the qualified electors of the county at the general  
11 state election: *Provided*, That until otherwise directed by the  
12 legislature one judge only shall be elected for the counties of Spokane  
13 and Stevens; one judge for the county of Whitman; one judge for the  
14 counties of Lincoln, Okanogan, Douglas and Adams; one judge for the  
15 counties of Walla Walla and Franklin; one judge for the counties of  
16 Columbia, Garfield and Asotin; one judge for the counties of Kittitas,  
17 Yakima and Klickitat; one judge for the counties of Clarke, Skamania,  
18 Pacific, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum; one judge for the counties of Thurston,  
19 Chehalis, Mason and Lewis; one judge for the county of Pierce; one  
20 judge for the county of King; one judge for the counties of Jefferson,  
21 Island, Kitsap, San Juan and Clallam; and one judge for the counties of

1 Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish. In any county where there shall be more  
2 than one superior judge, there may be as many sessions of the superior  
3 court at the same time as there are judges thereof, and whenever the  
4 governor shall direct a superior judge to hold court in any county  
5 other than that for which he has been elected, there may be as many  
6 sessions of the superior court in said county at the same time as there  
7 are judges therein or assigned to duty therein by the governor, and the  
8 business of the court shall be so distributed and assigned by law or in  
9 the absence of legislation therefor, by such rules and orders of court  
10 as shall best promote and secure the convenient and expeditious  
11 transaction thereof. The judgments, decrees, orders and proceedings of  
12 any session of the superior court held by any one or more of the judges  
13 of such court shall be equally effectual as if all the judges of said  
14 court presided at such session. The first superior judges elected  
15 under this Constitution shall hold their offices for the period of  
16 three years, and until their successors shall be elected and qualified,  
17 and thereafter the term of office of all superior judges in this state  
18 shall be for four years from the second Monday in January next  
19 succeeding their election and until their successors are elected and  
20 qualified. The first election of judges of the superior court shall be  
21 at the election held for the adoption of this Constitution. If a  
22 vacancy occurs in the office of judge of the superior court, the  
23 governor shall appoint a person to hold the office until the election  
24 and qualification of a judge to fill the vacancy, (~~which election~~  
25 ~~shall be~~) at the next succeeding general election held at least twelve  
26 months after the appointment by the governor and subject to the  
27 provisions of Article IV, section 29 of this Constitution, and the  
28 judge so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired  
29 term.

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

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