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HOUSE BILL 1081

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Klippert and Shea

Prefiled 01/03/19. Read first time 01/14/19. Referred to Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing the number of state supreme court  
2 judges; amending RCW 2.04.070 and 2.04.071; and providing a  
3 contingent effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.04.070 and 1909 c 24 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The supreme court, from and after February 26, 1909, shall  
8 consist of nine judges until the second Monday in January 2021, and  
9 of five judges thereafter.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.04.071 and 1971 c 81 s 1 are each amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 (~~At the next general election, and at each biennial general~~  
13 ~~election thereafter, there shall be elected three justices of the~~  
14 ~~supreme court, to hold for the full term of six years, and until~~  
15 ~~their successors are elected and qualified, commencing with the~~  
16 ~~second Monday in January succeeding their election.)) Five justices  
17 of the state supreme court are elected at the November 2020 general  
18 election.~~

19 (1) Upon certification of the election, the judges so elected are  
20 classified by lot, so that two hold their office for two years, two

1 for four years, and one for six years. The lot is drawn by the judges  
2 who must for that purpose assemble at the seat of government, and  
3 they must certify the result to the secretary of state.

4 (2) Except as provided in subsection (1) of this section,  
5 beginning with the 2022 election, the terms of justices elected to  
6 the state supreme court are six years from and after the second  
7 Monday in January next following their election, and until their  
8 successors are elected and qualified.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect if the proposed  
10 amendment to Article IV of the state Constitution concerning supreme  
11 court judge elections (House Joint Resolution No. . . . (H-0189/19))  
12 is validly submitted to and is approved and ratified by the voters at  
13 the next general election. If the proposed amendment is not approved  
14 and ratified, this act is void in its entirety.

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