
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4226

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Appelwick, Winsley, Vance, D. Sommers and Broback.

Read first time February 21, 1991. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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 to read as
7 follows:

8 Article IV, section 3. (1) The judges of the supreme court
9 shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the
10 general state election at the times and places at which state officers
11 are elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature.
12 The first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the
13 election which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and
14 the judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two
15 shall hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term
16 of five years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be

1 drawn by the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of
2 government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified to
3 the secretary of state, and filed in his or her office. (~~The judge~~
4 ~~having the shortest term to serve not holding his office by appointment~~
5 ~~or election to fill a vacancy, shall be the chief justice, and shall~~
6 ~~preside at all sessions of the supreme court, and in case there shall~~
7 ~~be two judges having in like manner the same short term, the other~~
8 ~~judges of the supreme court shall determine which of them shall be~~
9 ~~chief justice. In case of the absence of the chief justice, the judge~~
10 ~~having in like manner the shortest or next shortest term to serve shall~~
11 ~~preside.)) After the first election the terms of judges elected shall
12 be six years from and after the second Monday in January next
13 succeeding their election. If a vacancy occur in the office of a judge
14 of the supreme court the governor shall appoint a person to hold the
15 office until the election and qualification of a judge to fill the
16 vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding general
17 election, and the judge so elected shall hold the office for the
18 remainder of the unexpired term. The term of office of the judges of
19 the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as the state
20 shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the term
21 herein provided, and until their successors are elected and qualified.
22 The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of
23 government until otherwise provided by law.~~

24 (2) The judges shall by majority vote select from among themselves
25 a chief justice who shall serve a four-year term. By majority vote,
26 the judges shall fill any vacancy in an unexpired term in the office of
27 chief justice.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
29 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at

- 1 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in
- 2 every legal newspaper in the state.