
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8213

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Senators McCaslin and Hale

Read first time 02/05/2001. 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 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 3 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to
7 read as follows:

8 Article IV, section 3. (~~The judges~~) A justice of the supreme
9 court shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state at large
10 at the general state election at the times and places at which state
11 officers are elected, unless some other time be provided by the
12 legislature. (~~The first election of judges of the supreme court shall
13 be at the election which shall be held upon the adoption of this
14 Constitution and the judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot,
15 so that two shall hold their office for the term of three years, two
16 for the term of five years, and one for the term of seven years. The
17 lot shall be drawn by the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at
18 the seat of government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be
19 certified to the secretary of state, and filed in his office.)) Each
20 justice of the supreme court must be a resident of the supreme court
21 judicial district for which he or she is nominated or appointed for not~~

1 less than one year at the time of nomination or appointment. There
2 shall be three supreme court judicial districts in the state which
3 shall be coextensive with the three court of appeals districts as
4 established by the legislature.

5 The secretary of state, at least once every ten years, shall
6 apportion the supreme court judicial positions among the three supreme
7 court judicial districts according to population so that as near as
8 possible the population in each supreme court judicial district,
9 divided by the number of judicial positions assigned to that district,
10 is equal, except that each district shall have at least one supreme
11 court judicial position assigned to it. The registered voters of the
12 supreme court judicial district, and they only, shall vote to nominate
13 at the primary candidates for the supreme court judicial position or
14 positions assigned to that district, with the two candidates with the
15 most votes appearing on the general election ballot statewide.

16 The requirement to be a resident of the supreme court judicial
17 district shall not apply to the incumbent supreme court justice
18 assigned to that position. The legislature shall adopt legislation as
19 necessary to implement this section.

20 The supreme court shall select a chief justice from its own
21 membership to serve for a four-year term at the pleasure of a majority
22 of the court as prescribed by supreme court rule. The chief justice
23 shall preside at all sessions of the supreme court. In case of the
24 absence of the chief justice, the majority of the remaining court shall
25 select one of their members to serve as acting chief justice. After
26 the first election the terms of judges elected shall be six years from
27 and after the second Monday in January next succeeding their election.
28 If a vacancy occurs in the office of ((a judge)) justice of the supreme
29 court the governor shall ((only)) appoint a person ((to ensure the
30 number of judges as specified by the legislature,)) from the supreme
31 court judicial district where the vacancy occurred to hold the office
32 until the election and qualification of a ((judge)) justice to fill the
33 vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding general
34 election, and the ((judge)) justice so elected shall hold the office
35 for the remainder of the unexpired term. ((The term of office of the
36 judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as
37 the state shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the
38 term herein provided, and until their successors are elected and
39 qualified.))

1 The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of
2 government until otherwise provided by law.

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

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