H-0188.1

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**HOUSE BILL 1081**

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**State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Klippert and Shea

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Upon certification of the election, the judges so elected are classified by lot, so that two hold their office for two years, two for four years, and one for six years. The lot is drawn by the judges who must for that purpose assemble at the seat of government, and they must certify the result to the secretary of state.

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

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

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