

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8203**

---

**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** Senators McCaslin and Nelson.

Read first time January 22, 1991.      Referred to Committee on  
Governmental Operations.

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 XI of  
6 the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding a new section to  
7 read as follows:

8            Article XI, section ... In addition to the methods of framing a  
9 county home rule charter contained in section 4 of this Article, a  
10 charter may be framed as provided in this section. The legislature  
11 shall without unreasonable delay enact legislation creating and  
12 appropriating funds for a temporary county home rule commission of  
13 fifteen members. The commission shall draft five alternative county  
14 "Home Rule" charters, a copy of which shall be submitted to the  
15 legislative authority of each county, and shall be retained by the  
16 state in its permanent records. The commission shall exist not more

1 than one year. Commission members shall be appointed by the governor  
2 with at least one-third of the members to consist of members of the  
3 legislature and elected county officials. A new county home rule  
4 commission with the same membership qualifications, which shall exist  
5 no longer than a one-year period, shall be appointed by the governor to  
6 redraft any of the alternative "Home Rule" charters whenever the  
7 legislature enacts legislation calling for the creation of a new  
8 temporary home rule commission. As far as practical, all commissions  
9 created under this section shall be representative of major geographic  
10 areas of the state and the state's demographic distribution.

11 A single alternative charter may be submitted at an election to  
12 voters of any county for their approval and ratification, or rejection,  
13 upon either: (1) An ordinance adopted by the county legislative  
14 authority; or (2) the filing of a petition calling for an election  
15 which is signed by registered voters of the county equal in number to  
16 ten percent of the voters voting at the last preceding general election  
17 in the county. Upon approval and ratification of a charter by the  
18 voters of the county under this section, the charter shall become the  
19 organic law of the county.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
21 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at  
22 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in  
23 every legal newspaper in the state and that the ballot title of the  
24 foregoing constitutional amendment shall be: "Shall an additional  
25 procedure be permitted to simplify the process by which a proposed  
26 county charter is placed upon the ballot?"