
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8406

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Senators Snyder, McCaslin, Franklin and Goings

Read first time 02/04/1999. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 WHEREAS, Since 1993 Judge Grant Anderson has sat as a judge for the
2 Superior Court of the State of Washington, Pierce County; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1993, prior to taking his judicial position, then-
4 attorney Anderson practiced in estate law, and maintained as a client
5 the estate of Chuck Hoffman, the assets of which estate included a
6 Tacoma bowling alley and other substantial properties; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hoffman left the bulk of his estate to the Ocean Beach
8 Hospital District which serves and is supported by the residents and
9 taxpayers of Pacific County; and

10 WHEREAS, There have been allegations that then-attorney Anderson
11 approved the sale of the bowling alley to his friend, William Hamilton,
12 for approximately \$500,000 under assessed value; and at around the time
13 of sale, that he accepted from Mr. Hamilton payments for a new Cadillac
14 totaling approximately \$31,000; and

15 WHEREAS, Judge Anderson and others recently settled a claim against
16 them by the Ocean Beach Hospital District for \$500,000 for breach of
17 fiduciary duty to the beneficiaries of the Hoffman estate; and

18 WHEREAS, The Commission on Judicial Conduct recently recommended to
19 the Supreme Court that Judge Anderson be suspended for four months for
20 failing to report the Cadillac payments; and

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature maintains the authority to remove a judge
2 from office under Article IV, Section 9 of the State Constitution; the
3 Legislature takes this prerogative with solemn seriousness; and

4 WHEREAS, Although the Commission on Judicial Conduct's
5 recommendation is now pending before the Supreme Court; and the
6 Legislature would normally defer to the judicial branch in matters of
7 judicial discipline, the Legislature finds that an alleged breach of
8 public trust involving thousands of taxpayers warrants Legislative
9 concern;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of
11 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That the
12 Legislature commit to the respective Senate and House Committees on
13 Judiciary the issue of whether pursuant to Article IV, Section 9 of the
14 State Constitution, Judge Grant Anderson should be removed from his
15 Superior Court position for his alleged dealings in the matter of the
16 Hoffman estate or his dealings in other matters as deemed relevant by
17 the respective committees; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the respective House and Senate
19 Committees on Judiciary shall report to the Legislature by March 31,
20 1999, to recommend whether the Legislature should commence proceedings
21 under Article IV, Section 9 to remove Judge Anderson, and, if so
22 recommended, to set forth charges that may be incorporated into a joint
23 resolution.

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