
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4215

State of Washington **58th Legislature** **2004 Regular Session**

By Representatives Sommers, Romero, Jarrett, Clibborn, Moeller, Bush, Edwards, Morrell and Kagi

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

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 XI, section 3 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to
7 read as follows:

8 Article XI, section 3. (1) No new counties shall be established
9 which shall reduce any county to a population less than four thousand
10 (4,000), nor shall a new county be formed containing a less population
11 than two thousand (2,000). There shall be no territory stricken from
12 any county unless a majority of the voters living in such territory
13 shall petition therefor and then only under such other conditions as
14 may be prescribed by a general law applicable to the whole state.
15 Every county which shall be enlarged or created from territory taken
16 from any other county or counties shall be liable for a just proportion
17 of the existing debts and liabilities of the county or counties from
18 which such territory shall be taken: *Provided*, That in such accounting
19 neither county shall be charged with any debt or liability then

1 existing incurred in the purchase of any county property, or in the
2 purchase or construction of any county buildings then in use, or under
3 construction, which shall fall within and be retained by the county:
4 *Provided further,* That this shall not be construed to affect the rights
5 of creditors.

6 (2) For purposes of efficiency, cost savings, and improved service,
7 two or more counties may consolidate or merge any statutory or
8 constitutional function or structure, in a manner as prescribed by law.

9 The legislature may implement this subsection and may place
10 additional requirements or conditions on the consolidation or merging
11 of statutory or constitutional county functions or structures by
12 enacting general laws applicable to the whole state.

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

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