
Judiciary Committee

HJR 4223

Brief Description: Providing for the appointment of justices of the supreme court.

Sponsors: Representatives B. Sullivan, Rodne, Appleton, Sommers and Ormsby.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposes a constitutional amendment to change the method of selecting Supreme Court justices to appointment by the Governor, with retention elections as provided by law.

Hearing Date: 2/20/07

Staff: Edie Adams (786-7180).

Background:

Article IV, Section 3 of the Washington Constitution provides that justices of the Supreme Court are to be elected by the qualified voters of the state for a term of six years. If a vacancy occurs in a Supreme Court justice position, the Governor appoints a person to fill the vacancy until a justice is elected at the next general election to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Summary of Bill:

An amendment is proposed to Article IV, Section 3 of the Washington Constitution that would change the method of selecting justices of the Supreme Court to appointment by the Governor, with retention elections as provided in law.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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