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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4216

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Sullivan, Lytton, Blake, and Rossetti

Read first time 01/29/16.            Referred to Committee on General  
Government & Information Technology.

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 III of the Constitution of the state of Washington by  
7 repealing section 22 thereof in its entirety and an amendment to  
8 Article III, sections 1, 3, 10, and 24 of the Constitution of the  
9 state of Washington effective July 1, 2019, to read as follows:

10           Article III, section 1. The executive department shall consist of  
11 a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer,  
12 auditor, attorney general, (~~superintendent of public instruction,~~)  
13 and a commissioner of public lands, who shall be severally chosen by  
14 the qualified electors of the state at the same time and place of  
15 voting as for the members of the legislature.

16           Article III, section 3. The lieutenant governor, secretary of  
17 state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, (~~superintendent of  
18 public instruction,~~) and commissioner of public lands, shall hold  
19 their offices for four years respectively, and until their successors  
20 are elected and qualified.

1 Article III, section 10. In case of the removal, resignation,  
2 death or disability of the governor, the duties of the office shall  
3 devolve upon the lieutenant governor; and in case of a vacancy in  
4 both the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, the duties of  
5 the governor shall devolve upon the secretary of state. In addition  
6 to the line of succession to the office and duties of governor as  
7 hereinabove indicated, if the necessity shall arise, in order to fill  
8 the vacancy in the office of governor, the following state officers  
9 shall succeed to the duties of governor and in the order named, viz.:  
10 Treasurer, auditor, attorney general, (~~superintendent of public~~  
11 ~~instruction~~) and commissioner of public lands. In case of the death,  
12 disability, failure or refusal of the person regularly elected to the  
13 office of governor to qualify at the time provided by law, the duties  
14 of the office shall devolve upon the person regularly elected to and  
15 qualified for the office of lieutenant governor, who shall act as  
16 governor until the disability be removed, or a governor be elected;  
17 and in case of the death, disability, failure or refusal of both the  
18 governor and the lieutenant governor elect to qualify, the duties of  
19 the governor shall devolve upon the secretary of state; and in  
20 addition to the line of succession to the office and duties of  
21 governor as hereinabove indicated, if there shall be the failure or  
22 refusal of any officer named above to qualify, and if the necessity  
23 shall arise by reason thereof, then in that event in order to fill  
24 the vacancy in the office of governor, the following state officers  
25 shall succeed to the duties of governor in the order named, viz:  
26 Treasurer, auditor, attorney general, (~~superintendent of public~~  
27 ~~instruction~~) and commissioner of public lands. Any person succeeding  
28 to the office of governor as in this section provided, shall perform  
29 the duties of such office only until the disability be removed, or a  
30 governor be elected and qualified; and if a vacancy occur more than  
31 thirty days before the next general election occurring within two  
32 years after the commencement of the term, a person shall be elected  
33 at such election to fill the office of governor for the remainder of  
34 the unexpired term.

35 Article III, section 24. The governor, secretary of state,  
36 treasurer, auditor, (~~superintendent of public instruction,~~)  
37 commissioner of public lands, and attorney general shall severally  
38 keep the public records, books and papers relating to their

1    respective offices, at the seat of government, at which place also  
2    the governor, secretary of state, treasurer and auditor shall reside.

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

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