



2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 131

March 9, 2012 - Introduced by Representative AUGUST. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **To amend** section 4 (2) of article VII of the constitution; **relating to:** election of chief
2 justice (first consideration).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2011 legislature on first consideration, directs the supreme court to elect a chief justice as the first order of business each time a justice is elected or reelected.

A proposed constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

3 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That:***

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 4 (2) of article VII of the constitution is amended to read:

5 [Article VII] Section 4 (2) ~~The justice having been longest a continuous member~~
6 ~~of said court, or in case 2 or more such justices shall have served for the same length~~
7 ~~of time, the justice whose term first expires, shall be the chief justice. Each time a~~
8 ~~justice is elected or reelected and takes the oath of office, the court shall elect a chief~~
9 ~~justice as its first order of business.~~ The justice so designated as chief justice may,

1 irrevocably, decline to serve as chief justice or resign as chief justice but continue to
2 serve as a justice of the supreme court.

3 ***Be it further resolved, That*** this proposed amendment be referred to the
4 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for three
5 months previous to the time of holding such election.

6 (END)