



2013 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 57

October 22, 2013 - Introduced by Senators TIFFANY, DARLING, FARROW, LASEE, MOULTON, OLSEN and VUKMIR, cosponsored by Representatives HUTTON, AUGUST, KRUG, BIES, BROOKS, CRAIG, CZAJA, JACQUE, KERKMAN, KESTELL, KNODL, LEMAHIEU, NASS, A. OTT, PRIDEMORE, SANFELIPPO, SCHRAA, STRACHOTA and TITTL. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

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 2013 legislature on first consideration, directs the supreme court to elect a chief justice for a term of two years and limits the chief justice to no more than three consecutive terms as chief justice.

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

Resolved by the senate, the assembly 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.~~ The chief
8 justice of the supreme court shall be elected for a term of 2 years by a majority of the
9 justices then serving on the court. A justice may be elected by the justices of the
10 supreme court to serve as chief justice for no more than 3 consecutive terms. The

1 justice so designated as chief justice may, irrevocably, decline to serve as chief justice
2 or resign as chief justice but continue to 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)