



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE



LRBs0016/1
MPG:kjf:rs

**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2**

January 22, 2015 - Offered by Representatives GOYKE and WACHS.

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

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2015 legislature on first consideration, directs the judges of the circuit court and court of appeals and the justices of the supreme court to elect, by majority vote, a chief justice of the supreme court for a term of two years.

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. The chief~~
8 ~~justice of the supreme court shall be elected for a term of 2 years by a majority of the~~

1 judges then serving on the circuit court and court of appeals and the justices then
2 serving on the supreme court. The supreme court shall adopt procedures
3 establishing the time, place, and manner of the election. The justice so designated
4 as chief justice may, irrevocably, decline to serve as chief justice or resign as chief
5 justice but continue to serve as a justice of the supreme court.

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

9 (END)