



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE



LRBs0011/1  
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**SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,  
TO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2**

January 20, 2015 - Offered by Senators RISSER, L. TAYLOR, ERPENBACH, MILLER, VINEHOUT, HARRIS DODD, BEWLEY, RINGHAND, C. LARSON, CARPENTER, HANSEN, LASSA and SHILLING.

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

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2015 legislature on first consideration, directs the supreme court, effective August 1, 2019, to elect a chief justice 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.

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3             ***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 Except as otherwise provided in this section, the  
6             justice having been longest a continuous member of said court, or in case 2 or more  
7             such justices shall have served for the same length of time, the justice whose term  
8             first expires, shall be the chief justice. Beginning August 1, 2019, the chief justice  
9             of the supreme court shall be elected for a term of 2 years by a majority of the justices

1 then serving on the court. The justice so designated as chief justice may, irrevocably,  
2 decline to serve as chief justice or resign as chief justice but continue to serve as a  
3 justice of the supreme court.

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

7 (END)