



2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 49

July 20, 2011 – Introduced by Representatives AUGUST, KRUG, KRAMER, BIES, BROOKS, CRAIG, FARROW, JACQUE, KESTELL, KNILANS, KNUDSON, A. OTT, PETERSEN, PRIDEMORE, SPANBAUER, STRACHOTA, WYNN and MARKLEIN, cosponsored by Senators ZIPPERER, VUKMIR, KEDZIE, GALLOWAY, LASEE, OLSEN and WANGGAARD. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Ethics.

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,

