

Rob Hutton

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 13TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony of Representative Rob Hutton in Support of Assembly Joint Resolution 67

Mr. Chairmen and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for allowing a hearing for Assembly Joint Resolution 67.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is named in our State Constitution as the administrative head of the judicial system. The sole determination for Chief Justice is based on seniority, which is the Supreme Court Justice who has served longest on the Supreme Court.

Assembly Joint Resolution 67 would allow the justices to elect the Chief Justice for a term of two years for no longer than three consecutive terms. This would align the Supreme Court with how other Wisconsin court systems are administered, such as the Chief Judge for each judicial administrative district along with members of committees and boards for which the Supreme Court appoints.

Currently, 22 states have a peer vote process for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This proposal puts Wisconsin in line with these states; including Iowa, Illinois and Michigan. Wisconsin's seniority system is out of date, as it is only in place in 4 other states.

This legislation is about improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our courts, by bringing the position of Chief Justice to the foundation of the democratic process, allowing the administrative head of the judicial system to be chosen by a majority of justices.

I believe this change represents an important reform within our Supreme Court and will serve our justice system well for years to come.

Sincerely,



Rob Hutton
State Representative
13th Assembly District