



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE



LRBs0020/1  
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**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2,  
TO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2**

January 22, 2015 – Offered by Representatives C. TAYLOR, BARCA, SUBECK, SARGENT  
and ZAMARRIPA.

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 to elect a chief justice by open ballot for a term of two years and make the ballot cast by each justice available for public inspection.

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 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 open ballot by~~

1 a majority of the justices then serving on the court, and the court shall promptly  
2 make the open ballot cast by each justice in such an election available for public  
3 inspection. The justice so designated as chief justice may, irrevocably, decline to  
4 serve as chief justice or resign as chief justice but continue to serve as a justice of the  
5 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)