



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE



LRBs0017/1
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**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 3,
TO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2**

January 22, 2015 - Offered by Representatives WACHS, OHNSTAD, POPE, BERCEAU, BILLINGS, KOLSTE, SARGENT, KESSLER, STUCK, HESSELBEIN, CONSIDINE, MEYERS, YOUNG, SPREITZER, DOYLE, DANOU, SHANKLAND, BROSTOFF, BOWEN, HINTZ, JOHNSON, JORGENSEN, ZAMARRIPA and BARCA.

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 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.

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 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)