



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE



LRBs0019/1  
MPG:kjf:rs

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2,  
TO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2**

January 20, 2015 - Offered by Senators L. TAYLOR and RISSER.

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 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 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 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 a majority of the~~  
9 ~~justices then serving on the court. The chief justice serving on the effective date of~~

1 the 2015-17 amendment to this section shall continue to serve as chief justice until  
2 a new chief justice is elected. The justice so designated as chief justice may,  
3 irrevocably, decline to serve as chief justice or resign as chief justice but continue to  
4 serve as a justice of the supreme court.

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

8 (END)