

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS LEMAN, Donley

Introduced: 3/5/99

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the**  
2 **appointment and confirmation of supreme court justices and superior court judges**  
3 **and to approval or rejection of justices and judges during certain general**  
4 **elections.**

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 \* **Section 1.** Article IV, sec. 5, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

7 **Section 5. [NOMINATION AND] Appointment and Confirmation.** The  
8 governor shall fill any vacancy in an office of supreme court justice or superior court  
9 judge by **appointment. A person appointed under this section may not take office**  
10 **until confirmed by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session**  
11 **[APPOINTING ONE OF TWO OR MORE PERSONS NOMINATED BY THE**  
12 **JUDICIAL COUNCIL].**

13 \* **Sec. 2.** Article IV, sec. 6, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

14 **Section 6. Approval or Rejection.** Each supreme court justice and superior  
15 court judge shall, in the manner provided by law, be subject to approval or rejection  
16 on a nonpartisan ballot at the first general election held more than three years after his

1        **confirmation by the legislature** [APPOINTMENT]. Thereafter, each supreme court  
2        justice shall be subject to approval or rejection in a like manner every **sixth** [TENTH]  
3        year, and each superior court judge, every **fourth** [SIXTH] year.

4        \* **Sec. 3.** Article IV, sec. 9, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

5                **Section 9. [ADDITIONAL] Duties of the Judicial Council.** The judicial  
6        council shall conduct studies for improvement of the administration of justice, and  
7        make reports and recommendations to the supreme court and to the legislature at  
8        intervals of not more than two years. The judicial council shall perform other duties  
9        assigned by law.

10       \* **Sec. 4.** The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters of  
11       the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the  
12       State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.