

Introduced: 1/15/79
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Proposing amendments to the Consti-
6 tution of the State of Alaska pro-
7 viding for the election of supreme
8 court justices and superior court
9 judges.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 * Section 1. Article IV, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska is
12 amended to read:

13 SECTION 2. SUPREME COURT. (a) The supreme court shall be the
14 highest court of the State, with final appellate jurisdiction. It shall
15 consist of five [THREE] justices, one of whom is chief justice. The
16 number of justices may be increased by law upon the request of the
17 supreme court.

18 (b) The chief justice shall be selected from among the justices of
19 the supreme court by a majority vote of the justices. His term of
20 office as chief justice expires at the end of his term of office as a
21 supreme court justice [IS THREE YEARS]. A justice may not serve more
22 than one term or portion of a term as chief justice [BUT HE MAY NOT
23 SERVE CONSECUTIVE TERMS IN THAT OFFICE].

24 * Sec. 2. Article IV, Constitution of the State of Alaska is amended by
25 adding new sections to read:

26 SECTION 17. ELECTION OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. Each supreme
27 court justice shall be chosen at a general election by the qualified
28 voters of the State. Each candidate for supreme court justice shall run
29 for a designated supreme court justice position. The candidate in each

1 position receiving the greatest number of votes shall be the supreme
2 court justice for that position. No more than two-fifths of the supreme
3 court justice positions shall be filled at one general election.

4 SECTION 18. TERM OF OFFICE OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. The term of
5 office of a supreme court justice is six years, beginning at noon on the
6 first Monday in December following his election and ending at noon on
7 the first Monday in December six years later.

8 SECTION 19. LIMIT ON TENURE OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. No person
9 who has been elected a supreme court justice for two full successive
10 terms shall again be eligible to hold office as a supreme court justice
11 until two years have intervened.

12 SECTION 20. ELECTION OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. Each superior
13 court judge shall be chosen at a general election by the qualified
14 voters of the judicial district in which he seeks to serve. Each can-
15 didate for superior court judge shall run for a designated superior
16 court judge position. The candidate in each position receiving the
17 greatest number of votes shall be the superior court judge for that
18 position.

19 SECTION 21. TERM OF OFFICE OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. The term of
20 office of a superior court judge is four years, beginning at noon on the
21 first Monday in December following his election and ending at noon on
22 the first Monday in December four years later.

23 SECTION 22. LIMIT ON TENURE OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. No person
24 who has been elected a superior court judge for three full successive
25 terms shall again be eligible to hold office as a superior court judge
26 until two years have intervened.

27 SECTION 23. TERM OF OFFICE OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES AND SUPERIOR
28 COURT JUDGES APPOINTED UNDER PRIOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS. Notwith-
29 standing Sections 17 - 22 of this article, the term of office of each

1 supreme court justice and superior court judge appointed before the
2 effective date of the repeal of Section 6 of this article expires at
3 noon on the first Monday in December following the general election at
4 which he would next have been subject to approval or rejection. Ap-
5 proval under former Section 6 of this article is not an election to
6 office for purposes of the limitations on tenure specified in Sections
7 19 and 22 of this article.

8 SECTION 24. VACANCY. In case of a vacancy in the office of a
9 supreme court justice or superior court judge for any reason, the gover-
10 nor may appoint a qualified person to fill the office for the unexpired
11 portion of the term.
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