

Introduced: 1/14/81  
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH 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(b), Constitution of the State of Alaska,  
12 is amended to read:

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

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

21 SECTION 17. ELECTION OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. Each supreme  
22 court justice shall be chosen at a general election by the qualified  
23 voters of the State. Each candidate for supreme court justice shall  
24 run for a designated supreme court justice position. The candidate for  
25 each position receiving the greatest number of votes shall be the  
26 supreme court justice for that position.

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

1 on the first Monday in December six years later.

2 SECTION 19. LIMIT ON TENURE OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. A person  
3 who has been elected a supreme court justice for two full successive  
4 terms is not eligible to hold office as a supreme court justice until  
5 two years have intervened.

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

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

17 SECTION 22. LIMIT ON TENURE OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. A person  
18 who has been elected a superior court judge for three full successive  
19 terms is not eligible to hold office as a superior court judge until  
20 two years have intervened.

21 SECTION 23. VACANCY. In case of a vacancy in the office of a  
22 supreme court justice or superior court judge, the governor may appoint  
23 a qualified person to fill the office for the unexpired portion of the  
24 term.

25 SECTION 24. TERM OF OFFICE OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES AND SUPERIOR  
26 COURT JUDGES APPOINTED UNDER FORMER PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.  
27 Notwithstanding Sections 17 - 23 of this article, the term of office of  
28 each supreme court justice and superior court judge appointed before  
29 the effective date of the repeal of Section 6 of this article expires

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at noon on the first Monday in December following the general election at which he would next have been subject to approval or rejection. An earlier approval under former Section 6 of this article is not an election to office under Sections 19 and 22 of this article.

\* Sec. 3. Sections 5, 6, and 7 of art. IV of the Constitution of the State of Alaska are repealed.

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