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SENATE BILL 5685

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Senators Padden, Bailey, Sheldon, Ericksen, and Hewitt

Read first time 01/29/15. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1            AN ACT Relating to election of supreme court justices by  
2 district; amending RCW 2.04.071 and 2.04.100; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 2.04 RCW; and providing a contingent effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.04.071 and 1971 c 81 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            At the next general election, and at each biennial general  
8 election thereafter, there shall be elected three justices of the  
9 supreme court, one from each of the three supreme court judicial  
10 districts, to hold for the full term of six years, and until their  
11 successors are elected and qualified, commencing with the second  
12 Monday in January succeeding their election.

13            **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.04.100 and 1971 c 81 s 3 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15            If a vacancy occurs in the office of a justice of the supreme  
16 court, the governor shall appoint a person who is a resident of the  
17 supreme court judicial district for which the vacancy occurs to hold  
18 the office until the election and qualification of a justice to fill  
19 the vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding

1 general election, and the justice so elected shall hold the office  
2 for the remainder of the unexpired term.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 2.04 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 Prior to January 1, 2016, the secretary of state, in cooperation  
6 with the chief justice, shall assign by lot each supreme court  
7 judicial position to be filled in November 2016 to a judicial  
8 district, and in a similar manner shall also assign by lot each  
9 judicial position to be filled in November 2018 and in November 2020  
10 to a supreme court judicial district, so that one justice from each  
11 supreme court judicial district is elected at each biennial general  
12 election.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act take effect  
14 January 1, 2016, if the proposed amendment to Article IV, section 3  
15 of the state Constitution providing for the election of supreme court  
16 justices from judicial districts (Senate Joint Resolution No. ....  
17 (S-0079.1/15)) is validly submitted to and is approved and ratified  
18 by the voters at the next general election. If the proposed amendment  
19 is not approved and ratified, this act is void in its entirety.

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