



## 2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 131

March 9, 2012 - Introduced by Representative AUGUST. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **To amend** section 4 (2) of article VII of the constitution; **relating to:** election of chief  
2             justice (first consideration).

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2011 legislature on first consideration, directs the supreme court to elect a chief justice as the first order of business each time a justice is elected or reelected.

A proposed constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

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3             **Resolved by the assembly, the senate 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. Each time a~~  
8             ~~justice is elected or reelected and takes the oath of office, the court shall elect a chief~~  
9             ~~justice as its first order of business.~~ The justice so designated as chief justice may,

1 irrevocably, decline to serve as chief justice or resign as chief justice but continue to  
2 serve as a justice of the supreme court.

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

6 (END)