

No. R-406. Joint resolution scheduling the Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges.

(J.R.S.63)

By Senator Nitka,

Whereas, the Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges has been scheduled and postponed; and

Whereas, the Joint Assembly on Judicial Retention needs to occur during the 2020 adjourned session of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, Vermont has been declared by the Governor to be in a State of Emergency as a result of a pandemic known as “COVID-19”; and

Whereas, it is critical to take steps to control outbreaks of COVID-19 to minimize the risk to the public, maintain the health and safety of Vermonters and limit the spread of infection in our community; and

Whereas, technology exists which would enable the General Assembly to conduct a Joint Assembly during this time of a declared emergency in a manner: consistent with public access to, and transparency of, its proceedings, as demanded by the Vermont Constitution; and, consistent with and in compliance with statutory and legislative rule requirements regarding Judicial Retention, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Monday, September 14, 2020, at five o'clock in the afternoon to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Joint Assembly shall be concurrently conducted electronically at which members of the General Assembly may participate and debate from a remote location; that voting by ballot shall be conducted, as practicable, consistent with Vermont’s “Early or Absentee Voters” statute at 17 V.S.A. §2531, et. seq.; that after the reports of the Committee on Judicial Retention, the Joint Assembly shall recess until Monday, September 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm (or as otherwise ordered by the Joint Assembly) so that ballots may be submitted; and, that upon reconvening the results of the vote shall be announced or the Joint Assembly shall proceed until the above is completed.