

# State of Vermont Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

## Joint Senate Resolution

By Senator Nitka,

**J.R.S. 63.** Joint resolution scheduling the Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges.

*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.