

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2002 SESSION

CHAPTER 552

An Act to amend and reenact § 17.1-300 of the Code of Virginia, relating to election of Chief Justice by the justices of the Court.

[H 1186]

Approved April 5, 2002

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 17.1-300 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 17.1-300. Composition of Court; quorum; Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court shall consist of seven justices, any four of whom convened shall constitute a quorum. The justice longest in continuous service shall be Chief Justice and if two or more shall have so served for the same period, the justice senior in years of these shall be Chief Justice. *The Chief Justice shall be elected by majority vote of the justices of the Supreme Court to serve a term of four years.* An eligible justice may decline to serve as Chief Justice, or a Chief Justice may resign as such, without thereby relinquishing his membership on the Court as a justice thereof. ~~In either event the Chief Justice shall be the justice who would next succeed to the office.~~

2. That the provisions of this act shall not apply to any Chief Justice holding such office on January 1, 2002.