

By: Springer

S.J.R. No. 71

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the governor to call
2 the legislature into special session following certain disaster or
3 emergency declarations and specifying the powers of the legislature
4 in those special sessions.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 8, Article IV, Texas Constitution, is
7 amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

8 (c) The Governor shall convene the Legislature in special
9 session for the purposes described by Subsection (d) of this
10 section:

11 (1) if a state of disaster or emergency declared by the
12 Governor continues for more than 21 days; or

13 (2) on receipt of a petition from any member of the
14 Legislature requesting legislative review of a state of disaster or
15 emergency declared by the Governor if the petition is signed by at
16 least two-thirds of the members of the house of representatives and
17 at least two-thirds of the members of the senate.

18 (d) In a special session convened under Subsection (c) of
19 this section, the Legislature may:

20 (1) review an order, proclamation, or other instrument
21 issued by the Governor during the 90 days before the special session
22 begins:

23 (A) declaring a state of disaster or emergency in
24 this state; or

1 (B) in response to a state of disaster or
2 emergency in this state declared by any federal, state, or local
3 official or entity;

4 (2) terminate or modify an order, proclamation, or
5 other instrument described by Subdivision (1) of this subsection by
6 passage of a resolution approved by majority vote of the members
7 present in each house of the Legislature, which is not subject to
8 Section 15, Article IV, of this constitution;

9 (3) respond to the state of disaster or emergency,
10 including by:

11 (A) passing laws and resolutions the Legislature
12 determines are related to the state of disaster or emergency; and

13 (B) exercising the powers reserved to the
14 Legislature under Section 28, Article I, of this constitution; and

15 (4) consider any other subjects stated in the
16 Governor's proclamation convening the Legislature.

17 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
18 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2023.
19 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the
20 proposition: "The constitutional amendment requiring the governor
21 to call the legislature into special session following certain
22 disaster or emergency declarations and specifying the powers of the
23 legislature in those special sessions."