

By: Birdwell

S.J.R. No. 38

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to limit the authority of the  
2 governor to veto a bill passed by both houses of the Texas  
3 Legislature with a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of  
4 each house.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 14, Article IV, Texas Constitution, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 14. (a) Every bill which shall have passed both houses  
9 of the Legislature shall be presented to the Governor for ~~[his]~~  
10 approval. If the Governor approves of the bill, the Governor ~~[he~~  
11 ~~approve he]~~ shall sign it. If the Governor disapproves of the bill,  
12 the Governor ~~[, but if he disapprove it, he]~~ shall return it, with  
13 ~~[his]~~ objections, to the House in which it originated. The House to  
14 which the bill is returned ~~[, which House]~~ shall enter the  
15 objections at large upon its journal, and proceed to reconsider the  
16 bill ~~[it]~~. If after ~~[such]~~ reconsideration ~~[,]~~ two-thirds of the  
17 members present agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, with the  
18 objections, to the other House, by which likewise it shall be  
19 reconsidered. If ~~[, and, if]~~ approved by two-thirds of the members  
20 of that House, the bill ~~[it]~~ shall become a law. In ~~[, but in]~~ such  
21 cases the votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays,  
22 and the names of the members voting for and against the bill shall  
23 be entered on the journal of each House respectively.

24 (b) If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor with

1 ~~[his]~~ objections within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall  
2 have been presented to the Governor ~~[him]~~, the same shall be a law,  
3 in like manner as if ~~[he had]~~ signed by the Governor ~~[it]~~, unless  
4 the Legislature, by its adjournment, prevent its return, in which  
5 case it shall be a law, unless the Governor ~~[he]~~ shall file the bill  
6 ~~[same]~~, with ~~[his]~~ objections, in the office of the Secretary of  
7 State and give notice thereof by public proclamation within twenty  
8 days after such adjournment.

9       (c) If any bill presented to the Governor contains several  
10 items of appropriation, the Governor ~~[he]~~ may object to one or more  
11 of such items, and approve the other portion of the bill. In such  
12 case the Governor ~~[he]~~ shall append to the bill ~~[Bill]~~, at the time  
13 of signing it, a statement of the items to which the Governor ~~[he]~~  
14 objects, and no item so objected to shall take effect. If the  
15 Legislature be in session, the Governor ~~[he]~~ shall transmit to the  
16 House in which the bill originated a copy of such statement and the  
17 items objected to shall be separately considered. If, on  
18 reconsideration, one or more of such items be approved by  
19 two-thirds of the members present of each House, the same shall be  
20 part of the law, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor. If  
21 any such bill, containing several items of appropriation, not  
22 having been presented to the Governor ten days (Sundays excepted)  
23 prior to adjournment, be in the hands of the Governor at the time of  
24 adjournment, the Governor ~~[he]~~ shall have twenty days from such  
25 adjournment within which to file objections to any items thereof in  
26 the office of the Secretary of State and make proclamation of the  
27 same, and such item or items shall not take effect.

1        (d) The Governor may not disapprove a bill under Subsection  
2   (a) of this section if the bill was passed by both Houses of the  
3   Legislature by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present  
4   in each House. This subsection does not apply to the Governor's  
5   authority to object to one or more items of appropriation under  
6   Subsection (c) of this section.

7        SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
8   submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2025.  
9   The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the  
10   proposition: "The constitutional amendment to limit the authority  
11   of the governor to veto a bill passed by both houses of the Texas  
12   Legislature with a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of  
13   each house."