

By: Isett

H.J.R. No. 52

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment expanding the governor's
2 line-item veto authority to include the power to reduce the amount
3 of an appropriation.

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

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

7 Sec. 14. (a) Every bill which shall have passed both houses
8 of the Legislature shall be presented to the Governor for his
9 approval. If he approve he shall sign it; but if he disapprove it,
10 he shall return it, with his objections, to the House in which it
11 originated, which House shall enter the objections at large upon
12 its journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such
13 reconsideration, two-thirds of the members present agree to pass
14 the bill, it shall be sent, with the objections, to the other House,
15 by which likewise it shall be reconsidered; and, if approved by
16 two-thirds of the members of that House, it shall become a law; but
17 in such cases the votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas
18 and nays, and the names of the members voting for and against the
19 bill shall be entered on the journal of each House respectively. If
20 any bill shall not be returned by the Governor with his objections
21 within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been
22 presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he
23 had signed it, unless the Legislature, by its adjournment, prevent
24 its return, in which case it shall be a law, unless he shall file the

1 same, with his objections, in the office of the Secretary of State
2 and give notice thereof by public proclamation within twenty days
3 after such adjournment.

4 (b) If any bill presented to the Governor contains several
5 items of appropriation he may object to one or more of such items,
6 or reduce the amount of one or more items of appropriation, and
7 approve the other portion of the bill. In such case he shall append
8 to the bill, at the time of signing it, a statement of the items to
9 which he objects, and a statement of the items of appropriation that
10 he has reduced that specifies the amount of the reductions. No [and
11 no] item so objected to shall take effect, and the amount of an
12 appropriation reduced by the Governor shall be in accordance with
13 the Governor's reduction. If the Legislature be in session, he
14 shall transmit to the House in which the bill originated a copy of
15 such statement and the items objected to or reduced shall be
16 separately considered. If, on reconsideration, one or more of such
17 items objected to be approved by two-thirds of the members present
18 of each House, the same shall be part of the law, notwithstanding
19 the objections of the Governor. If, on reconsideration, the amount
20 of an appropriation reduced by the Governor is increased by
21 two-thirds of the members present of each House, to a specific
22 amount that does not exceed the amount of the original
23 appropriation, the amount of the appropriation as increased by the
24 Legislature on reconsideration shall be part of the law,
25 notwithstanding the reduction made by the Governor.

26 (c) If any such bill, containing several items of
27 appropriation, not having been presented to the Governor ten days

1 (Sundays excepted) prior to adjournment, be in the hands of the
2 Governor at the time of adjournment, he shall have twenty days from
3 such adjournment within which to file objections to or reduce any
4 items thereof and make proclamation of the same. Such~~[, and such]~~
5 item or items to which the Governor objects shall not take effect,
6 and the amount of an appropriation reduced by the Governor shall be
7 in accordance with the Governor's reduction.

8 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
9 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2003.
10 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
11 proposition: "The constitutional amendment expanding the
12 governor's line-item veto authority to include the power to reduce
13 the amount of an appropriation."