By: Branch   H.J.R. No. 13

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to require each house of the

2 legislature to take a record vote on final passage of a bill and to

3 publish the record vote on the Internet.

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

5   SECTION 1. Section 12, Article III, Texas Constitution, is

6 amended to read as follows:

7   Sec. 12. (a) Each house of the legislature [House] shall

8 keep a journal of its proceedings, and publish the same.

9   (b) A vote taken by either house must be by record vote

10 entered in the journal of that house if the vote is on final passage

11 of a bill, except that either house by rule may provide for

12 exceptions to this requirement for a bill that applies only to one

13 district or political subdivision of this state or one defined

14 geographic territory within this state; and the yeas and nays of the

15 members of either house [House] on any other question shall, at the

16 desire of any three members present, be entered on the journals.

17 For purposes of this subsection, a vote on final passage includes a

18 vote on a bill's third reading in a house or on second reading if the

19 house suspends the requirement for three readings, on whether to

20 concur in the other house's amendments to the bill, and on whether

21 to adopt a conference committee report on the bill.

22   (c) Each house shall make each record vote on final passage

23 of a bill required by Subsection (b) of this section available for a

24 reasonable time as determined by that house to the public through

1 the Internet or a successor electronic communications system

2 accessible by the public by reference to the subject and number of

3 the bill.

4   SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be

5 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 8, 2005.

6 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the

7 proposition: "The constitutional amendment to require that a

8 record vote be taken by a house of the legislature on final passage

9 of any bill, subject to exceptions for bills of purely local

10 applicability, and to provide for public access on the Internet to

11 record votes on bills."