

By: Pena

H.J.R. No. 17

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to require a house or  
2 committee of the legislature to take a record vote on certain  
3 legislative measures and actions.

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

9 (b) A vote taken by either House or by a committee of either  
10 House must be by record vote entered in the journal of the House or  
11 in the committee minutes, as appropriate, if the vote is on approval  
12 or disapproval of a bill, a measure proposing or ratifying a  
13 constitutional amendment, an amendment or substitute to such a bill  
14 or measure, the appointment or election of a legislative officer or  
15 other public official, or the confirmation of an appointment to  
16 public office; and the yeas and nays of the members of either House  
17 on any other question shall, at the desire of any three members  
18 present, be entered on the journals.

19 (c) Each House shall establish procedures to make each  
20 record vote required by Subsection (b) of this section available to  
21 the public through the Internet or a successor electronic  
22 communications system accessible by the general public by reference  
23 to the name or number of the bill, resolution, or other measure or,  
24 if applicable, by reference to the name of the person whose

1 appointment, election, or confirmation is being considered. The  
2 procedures must require the record of the vote to be made accessible  
3 within a reasonable time after the vote is taken.

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 record  
8 vote be taken by a house or committee of the legislature on any  
9 bill, constitutional amendment, amendment to a bill or  
10 constitutional amendment, election or appointment of a public  
11 official, or confirmation of an appointment to public office, and  
12 to provide for public access on the Internet to those record votes."