By: Naishtat

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 and to provide for public access
4 to those record votes.
5   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
6   SECTION 1. Section 12, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
7 amended to read as follows:
8   Sec. 12. (a) Each House shall keep a journal of its
9 proceedings, and publish the same.
10   (b) A vote taken by either House or by a committee of either
11 House must be by record vote of the yeas and nays entered in the
12 journal of that House or in the committee minutes, as appropriate,
13 if the vote is on approval or disapproval of a bill, a measure
14 proposing or ratifying a constitutional amendment, an amendment or
15 substitute to such a bill or measure, the appointment or election of
16 a legislative officer or other public official, or the confirmation
17 of an appointment or nomination to public office; and the yeas and
18 nays of the members of either House on any other question before
19 that House shall, at the desire of any three members present, be
20 entered on the journals.
21   (c) Each House shall establish procedures to make each
22 record vote required by Subsection (b) of this section widely
23 available to the public through the Internet or another suitable
24 method.

1   SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be

2 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 6, 2007.

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

4 proposition: "The constitutional amendment to require that a record

5 vote be taken by a house or committee of the legislature on any

6 bill, constitutional amendment, amendment to a bill or

7 constitutional amendment, election or appointment of a public

8 official, or confirmation of an appointment to public office, and

9 to provide for public access on the Internet or by another method to

10 those record votes."