

By: Hartnett

H.R. No. 1

R E S O L U T I O N

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of
2 Texas, That, in accordance with Sections 9(b) and 11, Article III,
3 Texas Constitution, the House of Representatives of the 80th
4 Legislature shall elect a speaker of the house from its own
5 membership as follows:

6 SECTION 1. NOMINATIONS. (a) The secretary of state shall
7 call for nominations from the floor for the election of speaker of
8 the house of representatives and shall recognize every member who
9 desires to make a nomination. The order in which members desiring
10 to make a nomination shall proceed shall be determined by lot.

11 (b) Each member recognized for this purpose shall
12 immediately advance to the front microphone and make the nomination
13 in a nominating speech not to exceed five minutes in length.

14 (c) After all nominations have been made, the secretary of
15 state shall declare nominations to be closed.

16 SECTION 2. SECONDS. (a) A person is not considered a
17 nominee unless the nomination is seconded by at least one member.

18 (b) One seconding speech shall be allowed for each
19 nomination in the order in which nominations were made, then other
20 seconding speeches shall be allowed in rotation in the same order.

21 (c) No more than five seconding speeches shall be allowed
22 for each nominee.

23 (d) A seconding speech may not exceed three minutes in
24 length.

1 SECTION 3. VOTING PROCEDURES. (a) The chief clerk shall
2 prepare paper ballots containing a space for a member to write in
3 the member's choice for speaker. One ballot shall be prepared for
4 each member and must contain the member's name and district number
5 and a space for the member's signature. The house sergeant shall
6 distribute each ballot to the appropriate member at the member's
7 desk.

8 (b) The chief clerk shall designate a voting area and shall
9 provide a voting box for the marked ballots. A member may mark and
10 sign the member's ballot either at the member's desk or at the
11 voting area.

12 (c) Each member shall be called individually by the reading
13 clerk in order of the member's district number and the member shall
14 proceed to the voting area when called. After arriving at the
15 voting area, the member shall fold the marked and signed ballot and
16 deposit it in the voting box.

17 (d) After all members have voted, the chief clerk shall
18 count the ballots on the house floor. The secretary of state and
19 the state auditor shall observe the count. A ballot may not be
20 counted unless it bears the signature of the member for whom it was
21 prepared. The chief clerk shall prepare a tally sheet indicating
22 how each member voted, the total votes received by each nominee, and
23 the total number of members who are present, not voting.

24 (e) All votes taken shall be record votes with the vote of
25 each member entered in the House Journal.

26 SECTION 4. RESULTS; RUNOFF. (a) The secretary of state
27 shall announce the results of the election. The chief clerk shall

1 release a copy of the tally indicating how each member voted as soon
2 as possible after the secretary of state announces the results.

3 (b) If a nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, the
4 secretary of state shall declare that nominee to be elected to the
5 office of speaker of the house of representatives. For purposes of
6 determining a majority of the votes cast for speaker under this
7 resolution, only a ballot indicating the name of a single nominee is
8 considered a vote cast.

9 (c) If no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, the
10 two nominees receiving the largest number of votes in the initial
11 vote shall be in a runoff conducted in accordance with the voting
12 procedures for the initial vote. The secretary of state shall
13 announce the results of the runoff and declare the nominee
14 receiving a majority of the votes cast to be elected.

15 SECTION 5. TIE VOTES. (a) If in the initial vote no nominee
16 receives a majority of the votes cast and it is not possible to
17 determine the two nominees receiving the largest number of votes
18 cast because of a tie vote, additional rounds of voting shall occur
19 in the same manner as the initial vote among the same nominees,
20 other than a nominee who withdraws, until a nominee receives a
21 majority of the votes cast or, if no nominee receives a majority of
22 the votes cast, until it is possible to determine the two nominees
23 who receive the largest number of votes cast.

24 (b) If in a runoff between two nominees no nominee receives
25 a majority of the votes cast because of a tie vote, additional
26 rounds of runoff voting shall occur in the same manner as the
27 initial runoff between the same two nominees until one of the

1 nominees in the runoff receives a majority of the votes cast.

2 SECTION 6. OATH. After the election, the secretary of state
3 shall direct the administration of the oath of office to the
4 speaker-elect. The speaker shall take the chair immediately after
5 taking the oath of office.

6 SECTION 7. BALLOT RETENTION. The chief clerk shall retain
7 the paper ballots used in electing the speaker in a secure location.