

By: Naishtat

H.J.R. No. 23

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to require that a record vote
2 be taken by a house of the legislature on second reading of a bill or
3 resolution for which a record vote is currently required on final
4 passage and on adoption of an amendment or substitute to such a bill
5 or resolution, and that a vote taken by a legislative committee on
6 such a bill or resolution or on an amendment or substitute to such a
7 bill or resolution be by record vote.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 12, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
10 amended by amending Subsections (b) and (d) and adding Subsection
11 (e) to read as follows:

12 (b) A vote taken by either house must be by record vote with
13 the vote of each member entered in the journal of that house if the
14 vote is on second reading or final passage of a bill, a resolution
15 proposing or ratifying a constitutional amendment, or another
16 resolution other than a resolution of a purely ceremonial or
17 honorary nature, or if the vote is on adoption of an amendment or
18 substitute to such a bill or resolution. Either house by rule may
19 provide for exceptions to this requirement for a bill that applies
20 only to one district or political subdivision of this state. For
21 purposes of this subsection, a vote on final passage includes a vote
22 on third reading [~~in a house, or on second reading if the house~~
23 ~~suspends the requirement for three readings~~], a vote on whether to
24 concur in the other house's amendments, and a vote on whether to

1 adopt a conference committee report.

2 (d) A vote taken by a committee of either house of the
3 legislature on whether to report a bill or resolution for which a
4 record vote would be required by Subsection (b), or on whether to
5 adopt an amendment or substitute to such a bill or resolution, must
6 be by record vote, with the vote of each member entered in the
7 minutes of the committee. Either house by rule may provide for
8 exceptions to this requirement for a bill that applies only to one
9 district or political subdivision of this state.

10 (e) Each house shall make each record vote required under
11 Subsection (b) or (d) of this section, including the vote of each
12 individual member as recorded in the journal of that house or in the
13 committee minutes, available to the public for a reasonable period
14 of not less than two years through the Internet or a successor
15 electronic communications system accessible by the public. For a
16 record vote on a bill or on a resolution proposing or ratifying a
17 constitutional amendment, the record vote must be accessible to the
18 public by reference to the designated number of the bill or
19 resolution and by reference to its subject.

20 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
21 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2009.
22 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
23 proposition: "The constitutional amendment to require that a record
24 vote be taken by a house of the legislature on second reading of a
25 bill or resolution for which a record vote is currently required on
26 final passage and on adoption of an amendment or substitute to such
27 a bill or resolution, and that a vote taken by a legislative

H.J.R. No. 23

1 committee on such a bill or resolution or on an amendment or
2 substitute to such a bill or resolution be by record vote."