

By: Vaught

H.J.R. No. 35

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to allow the Dallas County and
2 Tarrant County Hospital Districts to expand their boundaries.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 4, Article IX, Texas Constitution, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 4. (a) The Legislature may by law authorize the
7 creation of county-wide Hospital Districts in counties having a
8 population in excess of 190,000 and in Galveston County, with power
9 to issue bonds for the purchase, acquisition, construction,
10 maintenance and operation of any county owned hospital, or where
11 the hospital system is jointly operated by a county and city within
12 the county, and to provide for the transfer to the county-wide
13 Hospital District of the title to any land, buildings or equipment,
14 jointly or separately owned, and for the assumption by the district
15 of any outstanding bonded indebtedness theretofore issued by any
16 county or city for the establishment of hospitals or hospital
17 facilities; to levy a tax not to exceed seventy-five (\$.75) cents
18 on the One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars valuation of all taxable
19 property within such district, provided, however, that such
20 district shall be approved at an election held for that purpose, and
21 that only qualified voters in such county shall vote therein;
22 provided further, that such Hospital District shall assume full
23 responsibility for providing medical and hospital care to needy
24 inhabitants of the county, and thereafter such county and cities

1 therein shall not levy any other tax for hospital purposes; and
2 provided further that should such Hospital District construct,
3 maintain and support a hospital or hospital system, that the same
4 shall never become a charge against the State of Texas, nor shall
5 any direct appropriation ever be made by the Legislature for the
6 construction, maintenance or improvement of the said hospital or
7 hospitals.

8 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) of this section, the
9 boundaries of the Dallas County or Tarrant County Hospital District
10 may be expanded to include territory outside Dallas or Tarrant
11 County if a majority of the qualified voters of the district and a
12 majority of the qualified voters of the territory to be included in
13 the district approve the expansion at separate elections called and
14 held for that purpose.

15 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
16 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2009.
17 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the
18 proposition: "The constitutional amendment to allow the Dallas
19 County and Tarrant County Hospital Districts to expand their
20 boundaries."