

By: Carona

S.J.R. No. 30

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to provide that the governor's
2 absence from the state, and the lieutenant governor's absence from
3 the state when acting as governor, do not affect the person's
4 ability to serve as governor if the person maintains effective
5 communication links with this state.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 16(c), Article IV, Texas Constitution,
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 (c) In the case of the temporary inability or temporary
10 disqualification of the Governor to serve or[7] the impeachment of
11 the Governor, ~~[or the absence of the Governor from the State,~~ the
12 Lieutenant Governor shall exercise the powers and authority
13 appertaining to the office of Governor until the Governor becomes
14 able or qualified to resume serving or[7] is acquitted~~[, or returns~~
15 ~~to the State]~~. The Governor's absence from the state does not affect
16 the Governor's ability to serve if the Governor maintains effective
17 communication links with this state during the absence.

18 SECTION 2. Section 17(a), Article IV, Texas Constitution,
19 is amended to read as follows:

20 (a) If, while exercising the powers and authority
21 appertaining to the office of Governor under Section 16(c) of this
22 article, the Lieutenant Governor becomes temporarily unable or
23 disqualified to serve or[7] is impeached, ~~[or is absent from the~~
24 ~~State,~~] the President pro tempore of the Senate, for the time being,

1 shall exercise the powers and authority appertaining to the office
2 of Governor until the Governor or Lieutenant Governor reassumes
3 those powers and duties. The absence of the Governor or Lieutenant
4 Governor from the state does not affect the person's ability to
5 serve as Governor if the person maintains effective communication
6 links with this state during the person's absence.

7 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
8 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2009.
9 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
10 proposition: "The constitutional amendment providing that the
11 governor's absence from the state, and the lieutenant governor's
12 absence from the state when acting as governor, do not affect the
13 person's ability to serve as governor if the person maintains
14 effective communication links with this state."