

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
82R4472 JSA-D

S.J.R. 47
By: Williams
Administration
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, Section 5(b), Texas Constitution, prohibits the legislature from taking up non-emergency legislation during the first 60 days of a regular session. S.J.R. 47 would amend the constitution to permit the legislature to hear non-emergency legislation after the first 15 days of a legislative session.

S.J.R. 47 proposes a constitutional amendment to revise the order of legislative business to permit either house to act on bills and resolutions after the first 15 days of a regular session.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 5(b), Article III, Texas Constitution, as follows:

(b) Requires the first 15 days thereof, rather than thirty days, when convened in regular session, to be devoted to the introduction of bills and resolutions, acting upon emergency appropriations, passing upon the confirmation of the recess appointees of the governor and such emergency matters as may be submitted by the governor in special messages to the legislature. Requires the various committees of each house, during the remainder of the regular session, rather than during the succeeding thirty days of the legislature, to hold hearings to consider all bills, resolutions, and other matters then pending and such emergency matters as may be submitted by the governor, and the legislature to act upon such bills and resolutions as may be then pending and upon such emergency matters as may be submitted by the governor in special messages to the legislature. Makes conforming and nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 2. Requires the proposed constitutional amendment to be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 8, 2011. Sets forth the required language of the ballot.