

By: Crownover

H.B. No. 671

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to allowing the governor, and the lieutenant governor or
3 another person when acting as governor, to retain executive
4 authority while traveling within the contiguous 48 states of the
5 continental United States.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 401.022, Government Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 401.022. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "unavailable"
10 means, with respect to the governor or a person acting as governor
11 under the Texas Constitution or this subchapter:

12 (1) not able to exercise the powers and discharge the
13 duties of the office of governor for any reason specified in the
14 Texas Constitution; or

15 (2) being physically located outside the territorial
16 boundaries of the contiguous 48 states of the continental United
17 States.

18 SECTION 2. Section 401.025, Government Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 401.025. EXCEPTION. The [~~president pro tempore of the~~
21 ~~senate or~~] speaker of the house of representatives may act as
22 governor under this subchapter only if the person holds that office
23 when the governor and lieutenant governor first become unavailable.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect on the date that the

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1 constitutional amendment proposed by the 82nd Legislature, Regular
2 Session, 2011, providing that the governor, and the lieutenant
3 governor when acting as governor, retain executive authority unless
4 unavailable as provided by law is approved by the voters. If that
5 amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.