

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.C.R. No. 178

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The current Texas Constitution is this state's fifth
2 charter document since statehood, having been formed on the basis
3 of previous documents dating back to the days when Texas was an
4 independent republic; and,

5 WHEREAS, The proud independence of Texas has carried forth
6 inimitably through each of its constitutions, in both the Republic
7 of Texas and State of Texas constitutions, granting the government
8 limited powers and giving broad control to voters, thereby
9 embodying the principle of "consent of the governed"; and,

10 WHEREAS, First enacted in 1876, the Texas Constitution was
11 organized into 289 sections contained within 17 articles outlining
12 the scope, role, and limitations of governance in this state; and,

13 WHEREAS, Through proposed changes sent to Texas voters by the
14 legislature, sections within those same 17 articles have been added
15 and deleted, bringing our current document to 383 sections; and,

16 WHEREAS, The Texas Constitution of 1876 has expanded through
17 the ratification of proposed amendments, with 467 amendments being
18 approved, while 176 have been defeated; and,

19 WHEREAS, By far, the Texas Constitution is the nation's
20 lengthiest document; sections have been placed in the constitution
21 with apparent disregard for the appropriate article with which it
22 belongs; outdated bonding authority and other archaic references
23 remain bound in the document, despite previous attempts to address
24 non-substantive revisions to the Texas Constitution, the most

1 recent of which occurred in 1999; and

2 WHEREAS, The Texas Constitution of 1876 remains the Supreme
3 Law of the State of Texas, and a strong, independent statement
4 asserting the right of Texans to shape their government to their
5 view and their capacity to support it; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
8 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study a
9 non-substantive reorganization of the Texas Constitution; and, be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including
12 findings and recommendations, to the 83rd Texas Legislature in
13 January 2013.