

By: Hartnett

H.J.R. No. 67

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature
2 to set the salary of the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the
3 house of representatives.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 24, Article III, Texas
6 Constitution, is amended to read as follows:

7 (a) Members of the Legislature shall receive from the Public
8 Treasury a salary of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600) per month, unless a
9 greater amount is recommended by the Texas Ethics Commission and
10 approved by the voters of this State in which case the salary is
11 that amount. The Legislature through the General Appropriations Act
12 or other law may set the salary of the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives in an amount greater than the salary received by
14 other members of the Legislature. Each member shall also receive a
15 per diem set by the Texas Ethics Commission for each day during each
16 Regular and Special Session of the Legislature.

17 SECTION 2. Subsection (e), Section 24a, Article III, Texas
18 Constitution, is amended to read as follows:

19 (e) The commission may recommend the salary of the members
20 of the legislature [~~and may recommend that the salary of the speaker~~
21 ~~of the house of representatives and the lieutenant governor be set~~
22 ~~at an amount higher than that of other members~~]. The commission
23 shall set the per diem of members of the legislature and the
24 lieutenant governor, and the per diem shall reflect reasonable

1 estimates of costs and may be raised or lowered biennially as
2 necessary to pay those costs, but the per diem may not exceed during
3 a calendar year the amount allowed as of January 1 of that year for
4 federal income tax purposes as a deduction for living expenses
5 incurred in a legislative day by a state legislator in connection
6 with the legislator's business as a legislator, disregarding any
7 exception in federal law for legislators residing near the Capitol.

8 SECTION 3. Section 17, Article IV, Texas Constitution, is
9 amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to
10 read as follows:

11 (b) The Lieutenant Governor shall, while acting as
12 President of the Senate, receive for his or her services the same
13 compensation and mileage which shall be allowed to the members of
14 the Senate, and no more unless the Legislature sets the salary in a
15 greater amount as provided by Subsection (b-1) of this section
16 ~~[Texas Ethics Commission recommends and the voters approve a higher~~
17 ~~salary]~~, in which case the salary is that amount; and during the
18 time the Lieutenant Governor exercises the powers and authority
19 appertaining to the office of Governor, the Lieutenant Governor
20 shall receive in like manner the same compensation which the
21 Governor would have received had the Governor been employed in the
22 duties of that office, and no more. An increase in the emoluments
23 of the office of Lieutenant Governor does not make a member of the
24 Legislature ineligible to serve in the office of Lieutenant
25 Governor.

26 (b-1) The Legislature through the General Appropriations
27 Act or other law may set the salary of the Lieutenant Governor in an

1 amount greater than the salary allowed to the members of the Senate.

2 SECTION 4. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
3 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 8, 2011.
4 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
5 proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the
6 legislature to set the salary of the lieutenant governor and the
7 speaker of the house of representatives in an amount greater than
8 the salary received by other members of the legislature."