

By: Larson

H.J.R. No. 80

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to limit the time that a
2 person may serve in legislative office or in certain elective
3 executive offices.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
6 adding Section 7a to read as follows:

7 Sec. 7a. (a) A person is not eligible to be elected to the
8 house of representatives if, before the date of the election, the
9 person has served as a member of the house during all or part of six
10 regular sessions of the legislature.

11 (b) A person is not eligible to be elected to the senate if,
12 before the date of the election, the person has served as a member
13 of the senate during all or part of six regular sessions of the
14 legislature. This subsection does not prohibit a person who has
15 served as a member of the senate during all or part of five regular
16 sessions of the legislature from being elected to or serving a
17 four-year term in the senate even though at the end of that term the
18 person will have served during all or part of more than six regular
19 sessions.

20 (c) Legislative service before the legislature convenes in
21 regular session in 2013 is not counted in determining whether a
22 person is disqualified from election to office under this section.

23 SECTION 2. Article IV, Texas Constitution, is amended by
24 adding Section 2a to read as follows:

1 Sec. 2a. (a) A person is not eligible for election or
2 appointment to an elective office listed in Section 1 of this
3 article or to any other state office elected by the voters at a
4 statewide election, other than a judicial office, if on the date of
5 the election or appointment the person has served in that office
6 during any part of each of 12 or more calendar years.

7 (b) Nothing in this section prohibits a person from
8 continuing to serve in an office covered by this section after the
9 end of a term as a holdover under Section 17, Article XVI, of this
10 constitution until a successor is qualified.

11 (c) For purposes of this section, a calendar year begins
12 January 1 and ends December 31.

13 (d) Service in office before January 1, 2013, does not count
14 for purposes of determining whether a person is disqualified from
15 office under this section.

16 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
17 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 8, 2011.
18 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the
19 following proposition: "The constitutional amendment to limit the
20 time that a person may serve as a member of the Texas Legislature or
21 as a statewide elected officer in the executive branch."