

By: Hunter

H.J.R. No. 140

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment on the length of legislative
2 terms and number of years a person may serve in the legislature.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 3, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 3. (a) The Senators shall be chosen by the qualified
7 voters for the term of six [~~four~~] years; but a new Senate shall be
8 chosen after every apportionment, and the Senators elected after
9 each apportionment shall be divided by lot into two classes. The
10 seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the
11 expiration of the first four [~~two~~] years[~~7~~] and those of the second
12 class at the expiration of six [~~four~~] years[~~7~~, ~~so that one half of~~
13 ~~the Senators shall be chosen biennially thereafter~~].

14 (b) Senators shall take office following their election, on
15 the day set by law for the convening of the Regular Session of the
16 Legislature, and shall serve thereafter for the full term of years
17 to which elected.

18 SECTION 2. Section 4, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 4. (a) The Members of the House of Representatives
21 shall be chosen by the qualified voters for the term of four [~~two~~]
22 years; but a new House of Representatives shall be chosen after
23 every apportionment, and the Members elected after each
24 apportionment shall be divided by lot into two classes. The Members

1 of the first class shall vacate their seats after the expiration of
2 two years, and the Members of the second class shall vacate their
3 seats after the expiration of four years after the date on which
4 their term of office begins, so that half of the Members will be
5 elected biennially.

6 (b) Representatives shall take office following their
7 election, on the day set by law for the convening of the Regular
8 Session of the Legislature, and shall serve thereafter for the full
9 term of years to which elected.

10 SECTION 3. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
11 adding Section 7a to read as follows:

12 Sec. 7a. (a) A person is not eligible to be elected to the
13 senate if, on the date the term to which the person seeks election
14 begins, the person will have in the preceding 18 years served 12 or
15 more consecutive years as a member of the senate.

16 (b) A person is not eligible to be elected to the house of
17 representatives if, on the date the term to which the person seeks
18 election begins, the person will have in the preceding 12 years
19 served eight or more consecutive years as a member of the house.

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 under this section.

23 (d) For purposes of this section, it is presumed that a
24 member of the legislature who seeks election to a subsequent term of
25 office will serve for the full term of office the member is
26 currently serving.

27 SECTION 4. The following temporary provision is added to

1 the Texas Constitution:

2 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies
3 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 82nd Legislature,
4 Regular Session, 2011, on the length of legislative terms and
5 number of years a person may serve in the legislature.

6 (b) Members of the legislature shall be elected to terms as
7 provided by Sections 3 and 4, Article III, of this constitution
8 beginning with the election of members of the 83rd Legislature, to
9 convene in 2013.

10 (c) This section expires January 31, 2013.

11 SECTION 5. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
12 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 8, 2011.
13 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
14 proposition: "The constitutional amendment changing the length of
15 legislative terms and limiting the number of years a person may
16 serve in the legislature."