

By: Howard

H.C.R. No. 76

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, To sustain and strengthen faith and confidence in
2 state government, Texas has established standards of conduct that
3 require state officers and employees to remain free from direct or
4 indirect interests that conflict with the proper discharge of their
5 duties; and

6 WHEREAS, It has been two decades since the last comprehensive
7 review of these disclosure requirements, and given the pace of
8 economic and technological change in that time period, there is the
9 potential that gaps in reporting requirements exist; and

10 WHEREAS, An interim committee composed of representatives of
11 the public as well as elected officials would provide an
12 appropriate forum to address concerns and make recommendations to
13 ensure that the goal of meaningful disclosure is achieved, that
14 state government continues to operate with transparency, and that
15 the public has ready access to disclosure filings; now, therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
19 of representatives to create a select interim committee to
20 undertake a comprehensive review of financial disclosures made by
21 public officials; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the committee study and review the procedures
23 and effects of the filing of personal financial statements with the
24 Texas Ethics Commission or other authorities under Chapter 572,

1 Government Code, or other similar law; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the review include consideration of: (1) the
3 purposes of the current disclosure statutes and whether the
4 statutes accomplish those purposes, (2) the effectiveness of the
5 current disclosure scheme, and (3) what changes, if any, should be
6 made to more effectively accomplish the purposes of personal
7 financial disclosures; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of 14 members as
9 follows: four members appointed by the governor, including one
10 executive director of a state agency, one board member of a state
11 agency, and two representatives of local jurisdictions subject to
12 disclosure regulations established under state law; five members
13 appointed by the lieutenant governor, including two senators, one
14 of whom shall serve as a co-chair, one representative of an open
15 government advocacy organization, one representative of an
16 organization representing professional media, and one member of the
17 public; and five members appointed by the speaker of the house of
18 representatives, including two state representatives, one of whom
19 will serve as a co-chair, one representative of an open government
20 advocacy organization, one representative of an organization
21 representing professional media, and one member of the public; and,
22 be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the committee shall convene at the call of the
24 presiding officers and shall have all other powers and duties
25 provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the senate
26 and house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,
27 Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees

1 on administration; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including
3 findings and recommendations, to the lieutenant governor, the
4 speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor not later
5 than January 15, 2015.