

By: Callegari

H.J.R. No. 23

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment concerning the limitation on
2 the rate of growth of state appropriations.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 22, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 22. (a) In no biennium shall the rate of growth of
7 appropriations from all sources of revenue other than the federal
8 government [~~state tax revenues not dedicated by this constitution~~]
9 exceed a rate equal to the sum of the estimated rates [~~rate~~] of
10 increase or decrease, during the biennium preceding the biennium
11 for which the appropriations are made, [~~growth~~] of:

- 12 (1) the state's population; and
13 (2) inflation or deflation in this state in the prices
14 of goods [~~economy~~].

15 (b) The rates described by Subsection (a) of this section
16 shall be estimated in the manner provided by general law. If the
17 sum of those estimated rates is a negative number, appropriations
18 for the biennium from all sources of revenue other than the federal
19 government must decrease by a rate at least equal to the sum of
20 those estimated rates.

21 (c) In this section, the rate of change of appropriations
22 from all sources of revenue other than the federal government is the
23 percentage difference between:

- 24 (1) the amount of money appropriated for the current

1 biennium from those sources as estimated in the manner prescribed
2 by law at or near the time the legislature convenes in regular
3 session during the current biennium; and

4 (2) the amount of money appropriated for the next
5 biennium from those sources as finally estimated by the comptroller
6 at the times the Acts making appropriations are considered by the
7 comptroller under Article III, Section 49a, of this constitution.

8 (d) The legislature shall provide by general law procedures
9 to implement Subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section
10 [subsection].

11 (e) [~~(b)~~] If the legislature by adoption of a resolution
12 approved by a record vote of two-thirds [~~a majority~~] of the members
13 of each house finds that an emergency exists and identifies the
14 nature of the emergency, the legislature may provide for
15 appropriations in excess of the amount authorized by Subsection (a)
16 of this section. The excess authorized under this subsection may
17 not exceed the amount specified in the resolution.

18 (f) [~~(c)~~] In no case shall appropriations exceed revenues
19 as provided in Article III, Section 49a, of this constitution.
20 Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, amend, or
21 repeal Article III, Section 49a, of this constitution.

22 SECTION 2. Section 49a, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
23 amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

24 (c) A bill containing an appropriation may not be considered
25 as passed and may not be sent to the Governor for consideration
26 until the Comptroller of Public Accounts endorses on the bill the
27 Comptroller's certificate showing that the amount appropriated

1 does not exceed the limitation on the rate of growth of
2 appropriations imposed by Section 22, Article VIII, of this
3 constitution.

4 (d) When the Comptroller of Public Accounts finds that a
5 bill containing an appropriation exceeds the limitation on the rate
6 of growth of appropriations imposed by Section 22, Article VIII, of
7 this constitution, the Comptroller shall endorse that finding on
8 the bill, return the bill to the House in which it originated, and
9 immediately notify the House of Representatives and the Senate of
10 the finding.

11 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
12 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2014.
13 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
14 proposition: "The constitutional amendment regarding the
15 limitation on the rate of growth in appropriations."