

By: King of Parker

H.J.R. No. 52

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment limiting the rate of growth of  
2 appropriations for welfare programs.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 51-a, Article III, Texas Constitution,  
5 is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1)  
6 to read as follows:

7 (b) The Legislature may provide by General Law for medical  
8 care, rehabilitation and other similar services for needy persons.  
9 The Legislature may prescribe such other eligibility requirements  
10 for participation in these programs as it deems appropriate and may  
11 make appropriations out of state funds for such purposes, subject  
12 to Subsection (b-1) of this section.

13 (b-1) The rate of growth of the total amount of  
14 appropriations made for welfare programs for a state fiscal  
15 biennium as compared to the preceding state fiscal biennium may not  
16 exceed the maximum rate of growth of appropriations prescribed by  
17 Section 22(a), Article VIII, of this constitution [~~maximum amount~~  
18 ~~paid out of state funds for assistance grants to or on behalf of~~  
19 ~~needy dependent children and their caretakers shall not exceed one~~  
20 ~~percent of the state budget~~]. The Legislature by general statute  
21 may [~~shall~~] provide for the means for determining the state budget  
22 amounts, including state and other funds appropriated by the  
23 Legislature, to be used in establishing the biennial limit. In this  
24 subsection, "welfare programs" means the following:

1           (1) the medical assistance program or a successor to  
2 that program;

3           (2) the children's health insurance program or a  
4 successor to that program;

5           (3) the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
6 program or a successor to that program; and

7           (4) any other program that is:

8                   (A) an entitlement program for individuals; or

9                   (B) a program under which cash assistance or  
10 other benefits are provided to individuals on a means-tested basis.

11           SECTION 2. Section 51-a(c), Article III, Texas  
12 Constitution, is repealed.

13           SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
14 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 5, 2013.  
15 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the  
16 proposition: "The constitutional amendment limiting the rate of  
17 growth of spending authorized for welfare programs."