

By: Hunter

H.J.R. No. 140

A JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 4. (a) The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified voters for the term of four [~~two~~] years; but a new House of Representatives shall be chosen after every apportionment, and the Members elected after each 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 2015 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 83rd Legislature,
4 Regular Session, 2013, 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 84th Legislature, to
9 convene in 2015. For that purpose, the senators and
10 representatives elected to the 84th Legislature shall be divided by
11 lot into classes to establish staggered terms as provided by
12 Sections 3 and 4, Article III, as applicable, in the same manner as
13 following an apportionment.

14 (c) This section expires January 31, 2015.

15 SECTION 5. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
16 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 5, 2013.
17 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
18 proposition: "The constitutional amendment changing the length of
19 legislative terms and limiting the number of years a person may
20 serve in the legislature."