

By: Paxton

S.J.R. No. 49

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 proposing a constitutional amendment relating to a person's freedom
3 of religion.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 6, Article I, Texas Constitution, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 6. (a) All men have a natural and indefeasible right
8 to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own
9 consciences. No man shall be compelled to attend, erect or support
10 any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry against his
11 consent. No human authority ought, in any case whatever, to control
12 or interfere with the rights of conscience in matters of religion,
13 and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious
14 society or mode of worship.

15 (b) Government may not burden a person's or religious
16 organization's Freedom of Religion. The right to act or refuse to
17 act in a manner motivated by a sincerely held religious belief may
18 not be burdened unless the government proves it has a compelling
19 governmental interest in infringing the specific act or refusal to
20 act and has used the least restrictive means to further that
21 interest. A burden includes indirect burdens such as withholding
22 benefits, assessing penalties, or an exclusion from programs or
23 access to facilities.

24 (c) But it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass such

1 laws as may be necessary to protect equally every religious
2 denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public
3 worship.

4 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
5 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 5, 2013.
6 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the
7 proposition: " The constitutional amendment relating to a person's
8 freedom of religion.