

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.C.R. No. 37

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The current Texas Constitution is this state's fifth  
2 charter document since statehood, having been formed on the basis  
3 of previous documents dating back to the days when Texas was an  
4 independent republic; and

5           WHEREAS, The proud independence of Texas has carried forth  
6 inimitably through each of its constitutions, granting the  
7 government limited powers and giving broad control to voters,  
8 thereby embodying the principle of "consent of the governed"; and

9           WHEREAS, First enacted in 1876, the Texas Constitution was  
10 organized into 289 sections contained within 17 articles outlining  
11 the scope, role, and limitations of governance in this state;  
12 through proposed changes sent to Texas voters by the legislature,  
13 sections within those same 17 articles have been added and deleted,  
14 bringing our current document to 385 sections; and

15           WHEREAS, The Texas Constitution of 1876 has expanded through  
16 the ratification of proposed amendments, with 484 amendments being  
17 approved, while 179 have been defeated; and

18           WHEREAS, Today the Texas Constitution is the nation's  
19 second-longest such document; sections have been placed in the  
20 constitution with apparent disregard for the appropriate article  
21 with which they belong; outdated bonding authority and other  
22 archaic references remain in the document, despite previous  
23 attempts to address nonsubstantive revisions to the Texas  
24 Constitution, the most recent of which occurred in 1999; and

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Constitution of 1876 remains the supreme  
2 law of the State of Texas, and a strong, independent statement  
3 asserting the right of Texans to shape their government to their  
4 view is of paramount importance to their capacity to support it;  
5 now, therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas  
7 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house  
8 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study a  
9 nonsubstantive reorganization of the Texas Constitution; and, be it  
10 further

11           RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including  
12 findings and recommendations, to the 85th Texas Legislature in  
13 January 2017.