

By: Geren

H.C.R. No. 56

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature for each of the last 16
2 regular sessions has adopted a concurrent resolution authorizing
3 the creation and appointment of joint interim legislative study
4 committees by the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
5 representatives; and

6 WHEREAS, Renewal of the prior authorizations to the presiding
7 officers enables the legislature to address and study issues that
8 remain unresolved on sine die adjournment or that emerge subsequent
9 to that time; and

10 WHEREAS, It is also desirable to adopt by resolution various
11 rules and policies regarding the operation of joint committees to
12 supplement, and reconcile differences between, the senate and house
13 rules of procedure; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby authorize the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house
16 of representatives to create by mutual agreement such joint
17 committees as they consider necessary during the term of this
18 legislature; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That each joint committee created pursuant to this
20 resolution be composed of such combination of legislators, state
21 officials, or citizen members as shall be determined mutually by
22 the presiding officers of each house; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That on the request of the presiding officers, the
24 governor may appoint members to a joint committee created pursuant

1 to this resolution; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the presiding officers issue for each
3 committee so created a joint proclamation identifying the issue or
4 issues to be studied and listing the committee membership or
5 describing the committee composition and that the proclamation be
6 filed with the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the
7 house of representatives; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the presiding officers designate jointly a
9 chair, or designate alternatively two co-chairs, from among the
10 committee membership; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the chair or co-chairs, acting jointly and
12 within four weeks of the proclamation, prepare and present to the
13 presiding officers a proposal for budget and staffing; and, be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the chair or co-chairs be directed to use to
16 the greatest extent possible the existing staff and administrative
17 resources of committee members, standing committees, officers of
18 the senate and house, and legislative service agencies; and, be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the presiding officers jointly review each
21 budget and staffing proposal, adopt budgetary and staffing
22 allocations, and determine the manner in which each joint committee
23 is to be funded; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the joint committee chair, or the co-chairs
25 acting by mutual agreement, have authority to create and appoint
26 subcommittees or affiliated advisory panels and to designate
27 respective chairs for each, contingent on the advance approval of

1 the presiding officers for the creation and appointment of
2 subcommittees or advisory panels containing membership external to
3 the committee; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That each joint committee, and its subcommittees
5 and advisory panels, convene at the call of its chair or co-chairs;
6 provided that no joint committee, nor its subcommittees or advisory
7 panels, shall convene in a public hearing or other meeting for the
8 transaction of business unless public notice has been posted by its
9 chair or co-chairs at the locations specified by the senate and
10 house rules of procedure for posting of notice of standing
11 committee meetings at least five calendar days in advance of the
12 hearing or meeting; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the preceding clause be construed, for
14 purposes of Section 551.046, Government Code, as a joint rule of the
15 senate and house of representatives controlling the posting of
16 notice for joint committees, and their subcommittees and advisory
17 panels, in lieu of required posting with the secretary of state;
18 and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That each joint committee have authority to issue
20 process as provided in Sections 301.024-301.027, Government Code,
21 provided that any motion for the issuance of process must receive
22 the record vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting,
23 a quorum being present; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That each joint committee be entitled to accept
25 grants and donations as provided by Sections 301.032(b) and (c),
26 Government Code, and that, on expiration of a joint committee, any
27 unexpended funds remaining from a grant or donation be transferred

1 in equal proportions to the accounts of the senate and house of
2 representatives unless otherwise provided by the grantor or donor;
3 and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That each joint committee, except as modified by or
5 pursuant to this resolution, have all other powers and duties
6 provided to special committees by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,
7 Government Code, and the senate and house rules of procedure; and,
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the operating accounts for each joint
10 committee created pursuant to this resolution and any grants and
11 donations that such committee may receive be administered by the
12 accounting and purchasing sections of the Texas Legislative
13 Council; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislative Council accounting and
15 purchasing sections prepare, under the guidance of the presiding
16 officers, a manual of procedures for joint committees and other
17 entities created by the legislature for which funds are to be
18 administered by the Texas Legislative Council establishing
19 requirements as to printing needs, accounting procedures, ultimate
20 disposition of records, and other administrative and financial
21 matters; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That citizen members appointed by the lieutenant
23 governor or speaker of the house of representatives to joint
24 committees created pursuant to this resolution be reimbursed from
25 funds appropriated to the Texas Legislative Council for expenses of
26 transportation, meals, lodging, and incidentals for travel on
27 official committee business, at rates established by the joint

1 chairs of the Texas Legislative Council consistent with provisions
2 of the General Appropriations Act; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That citizen members appointed by the governor to
4 joint committees created pursuant to this resolution be reimbursed
5 from funds appropriated to the office of the governor for expenses
6 of travel on official committee business, at rates established by
7 the joint chairs of the Texas Legislative Council consistent with
8 provisions of the General Appropriations Act; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That citizen members appointed by the lieutenant
10 governor to senate select committees and citizen members appointed
11 by the speaker of the house of representatives to house committees
12 expanded or created under House Rule 4, Sections 24, 57, and 58,
13 when engaged in travel on official committee business, be
14 reimbursed for (1) transportation expenses at the same rates as
15 authorized for state employees by the General Appropriations Act,
16 and (2) actual expenses for meals, lodging, and incidentals,
17 subject to any maximum reimbursement limitations for meals and
18 lodging set by the Senate Administration Committee for senate
19 select committees and by the Committee on House Administration for
20 house select committees; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislative Council be authorized to
22 reimburse the senate and house of representatives for expenses
23 incurred by members of the senate and house for transportation,
24 meals, lodging, and incidentals for travel on official business of
25 joint committees created pursuant to this resolution; and, be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the final report of each joint committee be

1 approved by a majority of the voting membership of the committee;
2 dissenting voting members may attach statements to the final report
3 subject to any limitations specified in the rules adopted by the
4 committee; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That each joint committee created pursuant to this
6 resolution expire on January 10, 2017, or an earlier date specified
7 in the proclamation creating the committee.