

By: Bonnen of Galveston

H.J.R. No. 60

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment concerning the limitation on
2 the rate of growth of state appropriations.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 22, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 22. (a) In no state fiscal biennium shall the rate of
7 growth of appropriations from state tax revenues not dedicated by
8 this constitution exceed a rate equal to the sum of the estimated
9 rates [~~rate of growth~~] of:

10 (1) change of the state's population during the state
11 fiscal biennium preceding the state fiscal biennium for which the
12 appropriations are made; and

13 (2) monetary inflation or deflation in this state
14 during the state fiscal biennium preceding the biennium for which
15 the appropriations are made [~~economy~~].

16 (b) If the sum of the estimated rate of change of the state's
17 population and the estimated rate of monetary inflation or
18 deflation in this state during that preceding state fiscal biennium
19 is a negative number, the appropriations from state tax revenues
20 not dedicated by this constitution for the biennium may not exceed
21 the amount determined by subtracting from the estimated amount of
22 appropriations from state tax revenues not dedicated by this
23 constitution for that preceding biennium the product of the
24 additive inverse of that negative number and the estimated amount

1 of appropriations from state tax revenues not dedicated by this
2 constitution for that preceding biennium.

3 (c) The legislature shall provide by general law procedures
4 to implement Subsections (a) and (b) of this section [~~subsection~~].

5 (d) [~~(b)~~] If the legislature by adoption of a resolution
6 approved by a record vote of a majority of the members of each house
7 finds that an emergency exists and identifies the nature of the
8 emergency, the legislature may provide for appropriations in excess
9 of the maximum amount authorized by [~~Subsection (a) of~~] this
10 section. The excess authorized under this subsection may not
11 exceed the amount specified in the resolution.

12 (e) [~~(e)~~] In no case shall appropriations exceed revenues
13 as provided in Article III, Section 49a, of this constitution.
14 Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, amend, or
15 repeal Article III, Section 49a, of this constitution.

16 SECTION 2. The following temporary provision is added to
17 the Texas Constitution:

18 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies
19 to the amendments to Section 22, Article VIII, of this
20 constitution, proposed by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session,
21 2015, concerning the limitation on the rate of growth of
22 appropriations. This temporary provision expires December 1, 2017.

23 (b) The changes made to Section 22, Article VIII, of this
24 constitution, as made by the amendments, apply only in relation to
25 appropriations made for the state fiscal biennium beginning
26 September 1, 2017, and subsequent state fiscal bienniums.
27 Appropriations for the state fiscal biennium that began September

1 1, 2015, are governed by Section 22, Article VIII, of this
2 constitution as that section provided immediately before the
3 amendment was approved by the voters.

4 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
5 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.
6 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
7 proposition: "The constitutional amendment concerning the
8 limitation on the rate of growth in state appropriations."