

By: Riddle

H.J.R. No. 65

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the prohibition of
2 government interference with certain speech by religious leaders
3 and students.

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) The government of this state or a political subdivision
16 of this state may not control or interfere with:

17 (1) any political speech expressed by a religious
18 leader in a house of worship; or

19 (2) a student's voluntary expression of a religious
20 viewpoint at a school event or graduation ceremony.

21 (c) But it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass such
22 laws as may be necessary to protect equally every religious
23 denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public
24 worship.

1 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
2 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.
3 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
4 proposition: "The constitutional amendment relating to the
5 prohibition of government interference with certain political
6 speech by religious leaders and certain religious expression by
7 students."