

By: Deshotel

H.J.R. No. 142

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the operation of
2 casino games in certain areas of this state by licensed persons to
3 provide additional money for residual windstorm insurance coverage
4 in the coastal areas; providing for certification or licensing of
5 persons engaged in occupations related to casino gaming.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 47(a), Article III, Texas Constitution,
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 (a) The Legislature shall pass laws prohibiting lotteries
10 and gift enterprises in this State other than those authorized by
11 Subsections (b), (d), and (e) of this section and by Section 47a of
12 this article.

13 SECTION 2. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
14 adding Section 47a to read as follows:

15 Sec. 47a. (a) The legislature by general law in accordance
16 with this section shall authorize the operation of casino gaming in
17 this state in which individuals for consideration play games of
18 chance that award prizes and are operated by persons licensed or
19 otherwise authorized by this state to conduct casino gaming to
20 provide additional money for residual windstorm insurance coverage
21 in the coastal areas. The law must:

22 (1) limit casino gaming operations in this state to
23 gaming operated by persons licensed in this state to operate casino
24 gaming at not more than nine licensed locations in areas of this

1 state that are within 200 miles of the Gulf of Mexico;

2 (2) provide:

3 (A) a comprehensive certification or licensing
4 program, including necessary background investigations, to govern
5 a person that manages casino gaming operations in this state or that
6 maintains, manufactures, distributes, sells, or leases casino
7 games for use or play in this state;

8 (B) procedures for the state agency responsible
9 for conducting criminal background investigations for the state to
10 provide criminal background information to the state agency
11 responsible for certification or licensing under Paragraph (A) of
12 this subdivision; and

13 (C) procedures for the monitoring and inspection
14 of casino gaming operations as necessary to protect the public
15 health, welfare, and safety, to preserve the integrity of this
16 state and gaming operations in the state, and to prevent financial
17 loss to this state; and

18 (3) prohibit and impose criminal penalties for the
19 possession and operation of all gaming devices other than devices
20 operated in connection with authorized casino gaming operations or
21 gaming devices otherwise authorized by state law.

22 (b) In the general law enacted in accordance with Subsection
23 (a) of this section, the legislature may designate the counties in
24 which a casino gaming operator's license may be issued.

25 (c) All shipments of casino gaming equipment or other gaming
26 devices into, out of, or within this state authorized under this
27 section or a law enacted under this section are legal shipments of

1 the devices and are exempt from the provisions of 15 U.S.C. Sections
2 1171-1178 prohibiting the transportation of gambling devices.

3 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
4 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.
5 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
6 proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the
7 operation of casino games in certain areas of this state by licensed
8 persons to provide additional money for residual windstorm
9 insurance coverage in the coastal areas."