

By: Huffines

S.J.R. No. 6

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to provide qualifications for
2 and limit the time that a person may serve in certain offices.

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

4 SECTION 1. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
5 adding Section 7a to read as follows:

6 Sec. 7a. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (d) of this
7 section, a person is not eligible to be elected to the house of
8 representatives if at the time of election the person has
9 previously been elected as a member of the house of representatives
10 to six full terms.

11 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (d) of this section, a
12 person is not eligible to be elected to the senate if at the time of
13 election the person has previously been elected as a member of the
14 senate to three or more full four-year or full two-year terms
15 totaling 12 or more years.

16 (c) The following are not counted in determining whether a
17 person is disqualified from election to office under Subsection (a)
18 or (b) of this section:

19 (1) election to an unexpired term; or

20 (2) election to a full term before 2016.

21 (d) A person who would otherwise be disqualified from
22 holding an office under Subsection (a) or (b) of this section, as
23 applicable, may be elected to a new term in that office if at the
24 time of election two or more regular legislative sessions have

1 passed since the person last held that office. The limitations of
2 Subsection (a) or (b) of this section, as applicable, apply to the
3 new term of office beginning on the date the new term of office
4 begins. A person who qualifies for election to a new term of office
5 under this subsection receives no benefits of seniority in the
6 senate or house of representatives, as applicable, based on service
7 in that office before the new term of office begins.

8 SECTION 2. Section 9, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
9 amended by adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), and (b-3) to read as
10 follows:

11 (b-1) A member of the House of Representatives is not
12 eligible to be elected as Speaker unless at the time of election the
13 member has served at least one full two-year term as a member of the
14 House of Representatives.

15 (b-2) A member of the House of Representatives is not
16 eligible to be elected as Speaker if at the time of election the
17 member has previously served as Speaker for 72 or more calendar
18 months regardless of whether the months the member served as
19 Speaker were concurrent.

20 (b-3) Service as Speaker before January 1, 2016, is not
21 counted in determining whether a member is disqualified from
22 election as Speaker under Subsection (b-2) of this section.

23 SECTION 3. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
24 adding Section 9a to read as follows:

25 Sec. 9a. (a) A member of the senate or house of
26 representatives is not eligible to be designated as chair of a
27 standing committee if at the time of designation the member has

1 previously served as chair of that standing committee for 72 or more
2 calendar months regardless of whether the months the member served
3 as chair were concurrent.

4 (b) Service as chair of a standing committee before January
5 1, 2016, is not counted in determining whether a member is
6 disqualified from designation as chair of that standing committee
7 under this section.

8 SECTION 4. Article IV, Texas Constitution, is amended by
9 adding Section 2a to read as follows:

10 Sec. 2a. (a) A person is not eligible for election or
11 appointment to an elective office listed in Section 1 of this
12 article, Sections 2 and 4 of Article V, Section 30(b) of Article
13 XVI, or to any other state office elected by the voters at a
14 statewide election if the person has previously been elected to
15 that office for two full terms.

16 (b) Nothing in this section prohibits a person from
17 continuing to serve in an office covered by this section after the
18 end of a term as a holdover under Section 17, Article XVI, of this
19 constitution until a successor is qualified.

20 (c) The following are not counted in determining whether a
21 person is disqualified from election to office under this section:

22 (1) election or appointment to or assumption of an
23 unexpired term; or

24 (2) election to a full term before 2016.

25 SECTION 5. Article XVI, Texas Constitution, is amended by
26 adding Section 29 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 29. (a) In this section, "local elective office"

1 means every district office or office of a political subdivision of
2 this state that is filled by popular election.

3 (b) A person is not eligible for election or appointment to
4 a local elective office if on the date the term begins the person
5 has served in that office during any part of each of eight or more
6 calendar years.

7 (c) For purposes of this section, service in more than one
8 elective position on a governing body is considered service in the
9 same office. This subsection does not apply to ex officio service
10 on a governing body.

11 (d) Nothing in this section prohibits a person from
12 continuing to serve in an office covered by this section after the
13 end of a term as a holdover under Section 17 of this article until a
14 successor is qualified.

15 (e) For purposes of this section, a calendar year begins
16 January 1 and ends December 31.

17 (f) Service in office before January 1, 2016, does not count
18 for purposes of determining whether a person is disqualified from
19 election to office under this section.

20 (g) This section does not prohibit the legislature by
21 general law or a political subdivision of this state by charter,
22 ordinance, order, or other appropriate means from imposing a more
23 restrictive limit on the time or number of terms that a person may
24 serve in an elective office.

25 (h) This section does not apply to an office for which
26 another provision of this constitution imposes a limit on the time
27 or number of terms that a person may serve in the office.

1 SECTION 6. Article XVI, Texas Constitution, is amended by
2 adding Section 29a to read as follows:

3 Sec. 29a. (a) A person is not eligible for appointment to an
4 office that is filled by appointment of the governor with the advice
5 and consent of the senate and whose duties include serving as the
6 head of a state agency if at the time of appointment the person has
7 previously served in that office for a cumulative period of four or
8 more years.

9 (b) Nothing in this section prohibits a person from
10 continuing to serve in an office covered by this section after the
11 end of a term as a holdover under Section 17 of this article until a
12 successor is qualified.

13 (c) Service in office before January 1, 2016, is not counted
14 in determining whether a person is disqualified from appointment to
15 office under this section.

16 (d) This section does not prohibit the legislature by
17 general law from imposing a more restrictive limit on the time or
18 number of terms that a person may serve in an office.

19 (e) This section does not apply to an office for which
20 another provision of this constitution or general law imposes a
21 more restrictive limit on the time or number of terms that a person
22 may serve in the office.

23 SECTION 7. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
24 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.
25 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the
26 proposition: "The constitutional amendment to provide
27 qualifications for and limit the time that a person may serve in

1 certain offices."