

By: Bonnen of Galveston

H.J.R. No. 1

A JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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

4 SECTION 1. Sections 22(a) and (b), Article VIII, Texas
5 Constitution, are amended to read as follows:

6 (a) The rate of growth of appropriations from all sources of
7 state revenue other than the federal government for each category
8 of state spending identified by this subsection may not in any [In
9 no] biennium exceed the estimated [shall the] rate of growth in the
10 population served by expenditures in that spending category,
11 adjusted by the estimated rate of inflation in a representative set
12 of goods and services for which appropriations are made for that
13 spending category. The categories of state spending to which this
14 subsection applies are transportation, public primary and
15 secondary education, higher education, health care, public safety
16 and corrections, and other general government [of appropriations
17 from state tax revenues not dedicated by this constitution exceed
18 the estimated rate of growth of the state's economy]. The
19 legislature by general law may define each category of state
20 spending to which this subsection applies and shall provide [by
21 general law] procedures to implement this subsection.

22 (b) If the legislature by adoption of a resolution approved
23 by a record vote of a majority of the members of each house finds
24 that an emergency exists and identifies the nature of the

1 emergency, the legislature may provide for appropriations in excess
2 of the amount authorized by Subsection (a) of this section for a
3 category of state spending. The excess amount authorized under
4 this subsection may not exceed the amount specified in the
5 resolution for the category of state spending.

6 SECTION 2. The following temporary provision is added to
7 the Texas Constitution:

8 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies
9 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 85th Legislature,
10 1st Called Session, 2017, regarding the limitation on the rate of
11 growth of appropriations.

12 (b) The amendments to Section 22, Article VIII, of this
13 constitution apply only in relation to appropriations made for the
14 state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2019, and subsequent
15 state fiscal bienniums.

16 (c) This temporary provision expires January 1, 2020.

17 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
18 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2017.
19 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
20 proposition: "The constitutional amendment regarding the
21 limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations."