

By: Moody

H.J.R. No. 54

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting the governor or a  
2 specific-purpose committee for supporting or assisting the  
3 governor from accepting political contributions during a special  
4 legislative session.

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

6 SECTION 1. Article IV, Texas Constitution, is amended by  
7 adding Section 8a to read as follows:

8 Sec. 8a. (a) During the period beginning on the date a  
9 special legislative session called by the governor under Section  
10 40, Article III, of this constitution convenes and continuing  
11 through the date of final adjournment of the special legislative  
12 session, the governor or a specific-purpose committee for  
13 supporting or assisting the governor may not knowingly accept a  
14 political contribution and shall refuse a political contribution  
15 that is received during that period.

16 (b) A political contribution that is received and refused  
17 during the period described by Subsection (a) of this section shall  
18 be returned to the contributor not later than the 30th day after the  
19 date of receipt. A contribution made by United States mail or by  
20 common or contract carrier is not considered received during that  
21 period if it was properly addressed and placed with postage or  
22 carrier charges prepaid or prearranged in the mail or delivered to  
23 the contract carrier before the beginning of the period. The date  
24 indicated by the post office cancellation mark or the common or

1 contract carrier documents is considered to be the date the  
2 contribution was placed in the mail or delivered to the common or  
3 contract carrier unless proven otherwise.

4 (c) This section does not apply to a political contribution  
5 that was made and accepted with the intent that it be used:

6 (1) in an election held or ordered during the period  
7 prescribed by Subsection (a) of this section in which the person  
8 accepting the contribution is a candidate if the contribution was  
9 made after the person appointed a campaign treasurer with the  
10 appropriate authority and before the person was sworn in for that  
11 office;

12 (2) to defray expenses incurred in connection with an  
13 election contest; or

14 (3) by the governor if the governor was defeated at the  
15 general election held immediately before the session is convened or  
16 by a specific-purpose committee that only supports or assists the  
17 governor.

18 (d) In this section, "political contribution" and  
19 "specific-purpose committee" have the meanings assigned by Section  
20 251.001, Election Code, or a successor statute.

21 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
22 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2017.  
23 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the  
24 proposition: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the  
25 governor or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or  
26 assisting the governor from accepting political contributions  
27 during a special legislative session."