

By: Smithee

H.J.R. No. 11

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment changing the eligibility
2 requirements for appellate judicial offices.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 2(b), Article V, Texas Constitution, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (b) No person shall be eligible to serve in the office of
7 Chief Justice or Justice of the Supreme Court unless the person is
8 licensed to practice law in the State of Texas [~~this state~~] and is,
9 at the time of election, a citizen of the United States and of the
10 State of Texas [~~this state~~], and has attained the age of thirty-five
11 years, and has been a practicing lawyer licensed in the State of
12 Texas for at least ten consecutive years, or has been a practicing
13 lawyer licensed in the State of Texas and judge of a state court or
14 county court established by the Legislature by statute for a
15 combined total of [~~court of record together~~] at least ten
16 consecutive years, during which time the person's license to
17 practice law has not been revoked, suspended, or subject to a
18 probated suspension.

19 SECTION 2. The following temporary provision is added to
20 the Texas Constitution:

21 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies
22 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 85th Legislature,
23 Regular Session, 2017, changing the eligibility requirements for a
24 justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal

1 appeals, and a justice of a court of appeals.

2 (b) The amendment to Section 2(b), Article V, of this
3 constitution takes effect January 1, 2018, and applies only to a
4 chief justice or other justice of the supreme court, presiding
5 judge or other judge of the court of criminal appeals, or chief
6 justice or other justice of a court of appeals who is elected for a
7 term that begins on or after that date, or who is appointed on or
8 after that date.

9 (c) This temporary provision expires January 1, 2032.

10 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
11 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2017.
12 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the
13 proposition: "The constitutional amendment changing the
14 eligibility requirements for a justice of the supreme court, judge
15 of the court of criminal appeals, and justice of a court of
16 appeals."