

By: Watson

S.C.R. No. 56

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Texas Public Information Act has recently been
3 impacted by court decisions; and

4 WHEREAS, During the 85th Legislative Session, lawmakers and
5 other stakeholders spent months collaborating on several bills to
6 improve the Act, with many proposals garnering broad support;
7 despite those efforts, significant reforms failed to pass, leaving
8 TPIA still susceptible to a number of loopholes; and

9 WHEREAS, Government transparency is a vital component of an
10 informed citizenry, and it is incumbent on the State of Texas to
11 ensure that the public have access to information regarding how
12 their government functions in order to promote accountability,
13 openness, and honesty; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
16 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to examine
17 all state open-government laws, including the Texas Public
18 Information Act, for opportunities to improve transparency and
19 accountability; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including
21 its findings and recommendations, to the 86th Texas Legislature
22 before it convenes in January 2019; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
24 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim

1 committees as the 85th Legislature may adopt.