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
- 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
- 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

S.C.R. No. 56

1 committees as the 85th Legislature may adopt.