

By: Hughes

S.C.R. No. 17

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature for each of the last 18  
2 regular sessions has adopted a concurrent resolution authorizing  
3 the creation and appointment of joint legislative study committees  
4 by the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of  
5 representatives; and

6           WHEREAS, Renewal of the prior authorizations to the presiding  
7 officers enables the legislature to address and study issues that  
8 remain unresolved on sine die adjournment or that emerge subsequent  
9 to that time; and

10           WHEREAS, It is also desirable to adopt by resolution various  
11 rules and policies regarding the operation of joint committees to  
12 supplement, and reconcile differences between, the senate and house  
13 rules of procedure; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
15 hereby authorize the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house  
16 of representatives to create by mutual agreement such joint  
17 committees as they consider necessary during the term of this  
18 legislature; and, be it further

19           RESOLVED, That each joint committee created pursuant to this  
20 resolution be composed of such combination of legislators, state  
21 officials, or citizen members as shall be determined mutually by  
22 the presiding officers of each house; and, be it further

23           RESOLVED, That on the request of the presiding officers, the  
24 governor may appoint members to a joint committee created pursuant

1 to this resolution; and, be it further

2           RESOLVED, That the presiding officers issue for each  
3 committee so created a joint proclamation identifying the issue or  
4 issues to be studied and listing the committee membership or  
5 describing the committee composition and that the proclamation be  
6 filed with the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the  
7 house of representatives; and, be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the presiding officers designate jointly a  
9 chair, or designate alternatively two co-chairs, from among the  
10 committee membership; and, be it further

11           RESOLVED, That the chair or co-chairs, acting jointly and  
12 within four weeks of the proclamation, prepare and present to the  
13 presiding officers a proposal for budget and staffing; and, be it  
14 further

15           RESOLVED, That the chair or co-chairs be directed to use to  
16 the greatest extent possible the existing staff and administrative  
17 resources of committee members, standing committees, officers of  
18 the senate and house, and legislative service agencies; and, be it  
19 further

20           RESOLVED, That the presiding officers jointly review each  
21 budget and staffing proposal, adopt budgetary and staffing  
22 allocations, and determine the manner in which each joint committee  
23 is to be funded; and, be it further

24           RESOLVED, That the joint committee chair, or the co-chairs  
25 acting by mutual agreement, have authority to create and appoint  
26 subcommittees or affiliated advisory panels and to designate  
27 respective chairs for each, contingent on the advance approval of

1 the presiding officers for the creation and appointment of  
2 subcommittees or advisory panels containing membership external to  
3 the committee; and, be it further

4       RESOLVED, That each joint committee, and its subcommittees  
5 and advisory panels, convene at the call of its chair or co-chairs;  
6 provided that no joint committee, nor its subcommittees or advisory  
7 panels, shall convene in a public hearing or other meeting for the  
8 transaction of business unless public notice has been posted by its  
9 chair or co-chairs at the locations specified by the senate and  
10 house rules of procedure for posting of notice of standing  
11 committee meetings at least five calendar days in advance of the  
12 hearing or meeting; and, be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the preceding clause be construed, for  
14 purposes of Section 551.046, Government Code, as a joint rule of the  
15 senate and house of representatives controlling the posting of  
16 notice for joint committees, and their subcommittees and advisory  
17 panels, in lieu of required posting with the secretary of state;  
18 and, be it further

19       RESOLVED, That each joint committee have authority to issue  
20 process as provided in Sections 301.024-301.027, Government Code,  
21 provided that any motion for the issuance of process must receive  
22 the record vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting,  
23 a quorum being present; and, be it further

24       RESOLVED, That each joint committee be entitled to accept  
25 grants and donations as provided by Sections 301.032(b) and (c),  
26 Government Code, and that, on expiration of a joint committee, any  
27 unexpended funds remaining from a grant or donation be transferred

1 in equal proportions to the accounts of the senate and house of  
2 representatives unless otherwise provided by the grantor or donor;  
3 and, be it further

4       RESOLVED, That each joint committee, except as modified by or  
5 pursuant to this resolution, have all other powers and duties  
6 provided to special committees by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,  
7 Government Code, and the senate and house rules of procedure; and,  
8 be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the operating accounts for each joint  
10 committee created pursuant to this resolution and any grants and  
11 donations that such committee may receive be administered by the  
12 accounting and purchasing sections of the Texas Legislative  
13 Council; and, be it further

14       RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislative Council, under the  
15 guidance of the presiding officers, be responsible for preparing  
16 and maintaining a manual of procedures for joint committees and  
17 other entities created by the legislature for which funds are to be  
18 administered by the Texas Legislative Council; the manual must  
19 establish requirements relating to printing needs, accounting  
20 procedures, ultimate disposition of records, and other  
21 administrative and financial matters; and, be it further

22       RESOLVED, That citizen members appointed by the lieutenant  
23 governor or speaker of the house of representatives to joint  
24 committees created pursuant to this resolution be reimbursed from  
25 funds appropriated to the Texas Legislative Council for expenses of  
26 transportation, meals, lodging, and incidentals for travel on  
27 official committee business, at rates established by the joint

1 chairs of the Texas Legislative Council consistent with provisions  
2 of the General Appropriations Act; and, be it further

3       RESOLVED, That citizen members appointed by the governor to  
4 joint committees created pursuant to this resolution be reimbursed  
5 from funds appropriated to the office of the governor for expenses  
6 of travel on official committee business, at rates established by  
7 the joint chairs of the Texas Legislative Council consistent with  
8 provisions of the General Appropriations Act; and, be it further

9       RESOLVED, That citizen members appointed by the lieutenant  
10 governor to senate select committees and citizen members appointed  
11 by the speaker of the house of representatives to house committees  
12 expanded or created under House Rule 4, Sections 24, 57, and 58,  
13 when engaged in travel on official committee business, be  
14 reimbursed for (1) transportation expenses at the same rates as  
15 authorized for state employees by the General Appropriations Act,  
16 and (2) actual expenses for meals, lodging, and incidentals,  
17 subject to any maximum reimbursement limitations for meals and  
18 lodging set by the Senate Administration Committee for senate  
19 select committees and by the Committee on House Administration for  
20 house select committees; and, be it further

21       RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislative Council be authorized to  
22 reimburse the senate and house of representatives for expenses  
23 incurred by members of the senate and house for transportation,  
24 meals, lodging, and incidentals for travel on official business of  
25 joint committees created pursuant to this resolution; and, be it  
26 further

27       RESOLVED, That the final report of each joint committee be

1 approved by a majority of the voting membership of the committee;  
2 dissenting voting members may attach statements to the final report  
3 subject to any limitations specified in the rules adopted by the  
4 committee; and, be it further

5         RESOLVED, That each joint committee created pursuant to this  
6 resolution expire on January 12, 2021, or an earlier date specified  
7 in the proclamation creating the committee.