

By: Raney

H.J.R. No. 27

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment regarding certain
2 organizational and procedural matters related to the legislature.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 3, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 3. The Senators shall be chosen by the qualified voters
7 for the term of four years; but a new Senate shall be chosen after
8 every apportionment, and the Senators elected after each
9 apportionment shall be divided by lot into two classes. The seats of
10 the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration
11 of the first two years, and those of the second class at the
12 expiration of four years, so that one half of the Senators shall be
13 chosen biennially thereafter. Senators shall take office following
14 their election, on the day set ~~[by law]~~ for the convening of the
15 ~~[Regular Session of the]~~ Legislature for an organizational session
16 under Section 5a of this article, and shall serve thereafter for the
17 full term of years to which elected.

18 SECTION 2. Section 4, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 4. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be
21 chosen by the qualified voters for the term of two years.
22 Representatives shall take office following their election, on the
23 day set ~~[by law]~~ for the convening of the ~~[Regular Session of the]~~
24 Legislature for an organizational session under Section 5a of this

1 article, and shall serve thereafter for the full term of years to
2 which elected.

3 SECTION 3. Sections 5(b) and (c), Article III, Texas
4 Constitution, are amended to read as follows:

5 (b) When convened in regular session [~~Session~~], the
6 legislature may [~~first thirty days thereof shall be devoted to the~~
7 ~~introduction of bills and resolutions, acting upon emergency~~
8 ~~appropriations, passing upon the confirmation of the recess~~
9 ~~appointees of the Governor and such emergency matters as may be~~
10 ~~submitted by the Governor in special messages to the Legislature.~~
11 ~~During the succeeding thirty days of the regular session of the~~
12 ~~Legislature the various committees of each House shall]~~ hold
13 hearings and act on [~~to consider all~~] bills and resolutions,
14 including appropriations, [~~and other matters then pending, and such~~
15 ~~emergency matters as may be submitted by the Governor. During the~~
16 ~~remainder of the session the Legislature shall act upon such bills~~
17 ~~and resolutions as may be then pending and upon such]~~ emergency
18 matters as may be submitted by the Governor in special messages to
19 the legislature, and any other matter not otherwise prohibited by
20 this constitution or the applicable rules of procedure adopted by
21 each house of the legislature [~~Legislature~~].

22 (c) The speaker of the house of representatives shall
23 announce committee assignments not later than the second Tuesday in
24 January following the convening of the legislature in regular
25 session [~~Notwithstanding Subsection (b), either House may~~
26 ~~determine its order of business by an affirmative vote of~~
27 ~~four-fifths of its membership~~].

1 SECTION 4. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
2 adding Section 5a to read as follows:

3 Sec. 5a. (a) The legislature shall convene for an
4 organizational session at noon on the second Tuesday in December of
5 each even-numbered year. When convened for an organizational
6 session the legislature may take only the following actions:

7 (1) swearing in of members;

8 (2) election of officers under Section 9 of this
9 article; and

10 (3) adoption of rules of procedure under Section 11 of
11 this article.

12 (b) The number of days convened in an organizational session
13 under this section does not count toward the maximum duration of a
14 regular session under Section 24 of this article.

15 SECTION 5. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
16 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 2, 2021.
17 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
18 proposition: "The constitutional amendment regarding certain
19 organizational and procedural matters related to the legislature."