

By: Johnson

S.J.R. No. 20

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the lieutenant
2 governor and speaker of the house of representatives to call the
3 legislature into special session on petition of at least two-thirds
4 of the members of each house of the legislature in response to a
5 fiscal crisis, war, natural disaster, or emergency.

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

7 SECTION 1. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
8 adding Section 5A to read as follows:

9 Sec. 5A. The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
10 representatives shall by joint proclamation convene the
11 legislature in special session on receipt of a petition that is
12 signed by at least two-thirds of the members of each house of the
13 legislature requesting the special session for the purpose of
14 responding to a fiscal crisis, war, natural disaster, or emergency.
15 The proclamation must provide for convening the legislature not
16 later than the 60th day after the date the lieutenant governor and
17 speaker of the house of representatives receive the petition.

18 SECTION 2. Section 40, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 40. (a) When the legislature is [~~Legislature shall be~~]
21 convened in a special session called by the governor as authorized
22 by Section 8, Article IV, of this constitution, the legislature may
23 not consider [~~there shall be no~~] legislation on a subject [~~upon~~
24 ~~subjects~~] other than a subject [~~those~~] designated in the

1 proclamation of the governor [~~Governor~~] calling the [~~such~~] session,
2 or presented to the legislature [~~them~~] by the governor.

3 (b) When the legislature is convened in a special session
4 required by Section 5A of this article, the legislature may not
5 consider legislation on a subject other than a subject directly
6 related to the state's response to the fiscal crisis, war, natural
7 disaster, or emergency for which the special session is convened.

8 (c) No special [~~Governor; and no such~~] session shall be of
9 longer duration than thirty days.

10 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
11 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 2, 2021.
12 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
13 proposition: "The constitutional amendment requiring the
14 lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of representatives to
15 call the legislature into special session on petition of at least
16 two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature in
17 response to a fiscal crisis, war, natural disaster, or emergency."