

By: Hall

S.C.R. No. 51

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature for each of the last 21
3 regular sessions has adopted a concurrent resolution authorizing
4 the creation and appointment of joint legislative study committees
5 by the lieutenant governor and speaker of the House of
6 Representatives; and

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

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

15 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby authorize the lieutenant governor and speaker of the House
17 of Representatives to create by mutual agreement such joint
18 committees as they consider necessary during the term of this
19 legislature; and, be it further

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

24 RESOLVED, That on the request of the presiding officers, the

1 governor may appoint members to a joint committee created pursuant
2 to this resolution; and, be it further

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

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

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

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

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

25 RESOLVED, That the joint committee chair, or the co-chairs
26 acting by mutual agreement, have authority to create and appoint
27 subcommittees or affiliated advisory panels and to designate

1 respective chairs for each, contingent on the advance approval of
2 the presiding officers for the creation and appointment of
3 subcommittees or advisory panels containing membership external to
4 the committee; and, be it further

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

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

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

25 RESOLVED, That each joint committee be entitled to accept
26 grants and donations as provided by Sections 301.032(b) and (c),
27 Government Code, and that, on expiration of a joint committee, any

1 unexpended funds remaining from a grant or donation be transferred
2 in equal proportions to the accounts of the Senate and House of
3 Representatives unless otherwise provided by the grantor or donor;
4 and, be it further

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

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That citizen members appointed by the lieutenant
24 governor or speaker of the House of Representatives to joint
25 committees created pursuant to this resolution be reimbursed from
26 funds appropriated to the Texas Legislative Council for expenses of
27 transportation, meals, lodging, and incidentals for travel on

1 official committee business, at rates established by the joint
2 chairs of the Texas Legislative Council consistent with provisions
3 of the General Appropriations Act; and, be it further

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

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

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

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

6 RESOLVED, That each joint committee created pursuant to this
7 resolution expire on January 12, 2027, or an earlier date specified
8 in the proclamation creating the committee.