By:  Huffines                                          S.J.R. No. 12

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1                    SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the establishment

3 of limits on the number of terms judges and justices may serve on

4 courts in this state.

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

6        SECTION 1.  Article V, Texas Constitution, is amended by

7 adding Section 32 to read as follows:

8        Sec. 32.  (a)  The legislature by general law shall require

9 the Supreme Court, in consultation with the Court of Criminal

10 Appeals, to establish a limit on the number of terms a judge or

11 justice may be elected to serve as a judge or justice of a court

12 established under this article, by the legislature under general

13 law, or by the governing body of a municipality by ordinance.

14        (b)  A judge or justice who has been elected to serve on a

15 court for the maximum number of terms established by the Supreme

16 Court, in consultation with the Court of Criminal Appeals, as

17 required by Subsection (a) of this section is not eligible for

18 election to serve an additional term on that court.

19        (c)  The term of a person appointed to serve on a court for

20 the remainder of a term or to fill a vacancy on the court is not

21 counted in determining whether the person is eligible to serve

22 under Subsection (b) of this section.

23        SECTION 2.  The following temporary provision is added to

24 the Texas Constitution:

1     <u>TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies</u>

2   <u>to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 85th Legislature,</u>

3   <u>Regular Session, 2017, requiring the legislature by general law to</u>

4   <u>require the Supreme Court, in consultation with the Court of</u>

5   <u>Criminal Appeals, to establish a limit on the number of terms a</u>

6   <u>judge or justice may serve on a court in this state.</u>

7     <u>(b) The Supreme Court shall establish the limit as required</u>

8   <u>by the general law enacted under Subsection (a) of this temporary</u>

9   <u>provision not later than December 1, 2018.</u>

10     <u>(c) A term that begins before January 1, 2019, is not</u>

11   <u>counted in determining whether a judge or justice is eligible to</u>

12   <u>serve on a court under Section 32, Article V, of this constitution.</u>

13     <u>(d) This temporary provision expires February 1, 2039.</u>

14     SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be

15   submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2017.

16   The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the

17   proposition: "The constitutional amendment requiring the

18   legislature to establish term limits for judges and justices

19   serving on courts in this state."