

1-1 By: Middleton S.J.R. No. 63
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 27, 2025; March 13, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
1-4 April 14, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 14, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Hughes	X			
1-10	Paxton	X			
1-11	Bettencourt	X			
1-12	Birdwell	X			
1-13	Hall	X			
1-14	Hinojosa of Nueces	X			
1-15	Middleton	X			
1-16	Parker			X	
1-17	Perry	X			
1-18	Schwertner			X	
1-19	Zaffirini			X	

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.J.R. No. 63 By: Middleton

1-21 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1-22 proposing a constitutional amendment regarding the terminology
1-23 used in the Texas Constitution to refer to the partially landlocked
1-24 body of water on the southeastern periphery of the North American
1-25 continent.

1-26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-27 SECTION 1. Section 33(a), Article I, Texas Constitution, is
1-28 amended to read as follows:

1-29 (a) In this section, "public beach" means a state-owned
1-30 beach bordering on the seaward shore of the Gulf of America [~~Gulf of~~
1-31 ~~Mexico~~], extending from mean low tide to the landward boundary of
1-32 state-owned submerged land, and any larger area extending from the
1-33 line of mean low tide to the line of vegetation bordering on the
1-34 Gulf of America [~~Gulf of Mexico~~] to which the public has acquired a
1-35 right of use or easement to or over the area by prescription or
1-36 dedication or has established and retained a right by virtue of
1-37 continuous right in the public under Texas common law.

1-38 SECTION 2. Section 1-i, Article VIII, Texas Constitution,
1-39 is amended to read as follows:

1-40 Sec. 1-i. The legislature by general law may provide ad
1-41 valorem tax relief for mobile marine drilling equipment designed
1-42 for offshore drilling of oil or gas wells that is being stored while
1-43 not in use in a county bordering on the Gulf of America [~~Gulf of~~
1-44 ~~Mexico~~] or on a bay or other body of water immediately adjacent to
1-45 the Gulf of America [~~Gulf of Mexico~~].

1-46 SECTION 3. Section 1-A, Article IX, Texas Constitution, is
1-47 amended to read as follows:

1-48 Sec. 1-A. The Legislature may authorize the governing body
1-49 of any county bordering on the Gulf of America [~~Gulf of Mexico~~] or
1-50 the tidewater limits thereof to regulate and restrict the speed,
1-51 parking and travel of motor vehicles on beaches available to the
1-52 public by virtue of public right and the littering of such beaches.

1-53 Nothing in this amendment shall increase the rights of any
1-54 riparian or littoral landowner with regard to beaches available to
1-55 the public by virtue of public right or submerged lands.

1-56 The Legislature may enact any laws not inconsistent with this
1-57 Section which it may deem necessary to permit said counties to
1-58 implement, enforce and administer the provisions contained herein.

1-59 Should the Legislature enact legislation in anticipation of
1-60 the adoption of this amendment, such legislation shall not be

invalid by reason of its anticipatory character.

SECTION 4. Section 7(a), Article XI, Texas Constitution, is amended to read as follows:

(a) All counties and cities bordering on the coast of the Gulf of America [~~Gulf of Mexico~~] are hereby authorized upon a vote of the majority of the qualified voters voting thereon at an election called for such purpose to levy and collect such tax for construction of sea walls, breakwaters, or sanitary purposes, as may now or may hereafter be authorized by law, and may create a debt for such works and issue bonds in evidence thereof. But no debt for any purpose shall ever be incurred in any manner by any city or county unless provision is made, at the time of creating the same, for levying and collecting a sufficient tax to pay the interest thereon and provide at least two per cent (2%) as a sinking fund, except as provided by Subsection (b); and the condemnation of the right of way for the erection of such works shall be fully provided for.

SECTION 5. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held on November 4, 2025. The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment changing references in the Texas Constitution to the partially landlocked body of water on the southeastern periphery of the North American continent, commonly known as the "Gulf of Mexico," to the "Gulf of America."

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