

By: Phillips

H.J.R. No. 135

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment relating to an individual's or  
2 a religious organization's free exercise of religion.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 6, Article I, Texas Constitution, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 6. (a) All men have a natural and infeasible right  
7 to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own  
8 consciences. No man shall be compelled to attend, erect or support  
9 any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry against his  
10 consent. No human authority ought, in any case whatever, to control  
11 or interfere with the rights of conscience in matters of religion,  
12 and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious  
13 society or mode of worship.

14 (b) The government may not, directly, indirectly, or  
15 incidentally, substantially burden an individual's or a religious  
16 organization's conduct that is based on a sincerely held religious  
17 belief, unless the government is: (i) acting to further a  
18 compelling governmental interest, and (ii) using the least  
19 restrictive available means to do so.

20 (c) But it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass such  
21 laws as may be necessary to protect equally every religious  
22 denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public  
23 worship.

24 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be

1 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 8, 2011.  
2 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the  
3 proposition: "The constitutional amendment relating to an  
4 individual's or a religious organization's free exercise of  
5 religion."