

By: Dutton

H.J.R. No. 112

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to change the composition of
2 the grand jury.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 13, Article V, Texas Constitution, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 13. (a) Grand juries shall be composed of three
7 persons in each county and two members of a grand jury shall be a
8 quorum to transact business and present bills.

9 (b) Petit [~~and petit~~] juries in the District Courts shall be
10 composed of twelve persons, except that petit juries in a criminal
11 case below the grade of felony shall be composed of six persons[+
12 ~~but nine members of a grand jury shall be a quorum to transact~~
13 ~~business and present bills~~]. In trials of civil cases in the
14 District Courts, nine members of the jury, concurring, may render a
15 verdict, but when the verdict shall be rendered by less than the
16 whole number, it shall be signed by every member of the jury
17 concurring in it. When, pending the trial of any case, one or more
18 jurors not exceeding three, may die, or be disabled from sitting,
19 the remainder of the jury shall have the power to render the
20 verdict; provided, that the Legislature may change or modify the
21 rule authorizing less than the whole number of the jury to render a
22 verdict.

23 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
24 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.

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1 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
2 proposition: "The constitutional amendment to change the
3 composition of the grand jury."