

By: Campbell

S.J.R. No. 10

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment relating to an individual's or
2 religious organization's freedom 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 indefeasible 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) Government may not burden an individual's or religious
15 organization's freedom of religion or right to act or refuse to act
16 in a manner motivated by a sincerely held religious belief unless
17 the government proves that the burden is in furtherance of a
18 compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means
19 of furthering that interest. For purposes of this subsection, the
20 term "burden" includes indirect burdens such as withholding
21 benefits, assessing penalties, and denying access to facilities or
22 programs.

23 (c) But it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass such
24 laws as may be necessary to protect equally every religious

1 denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public
2 worship.

3 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
4 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.
5 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the
6 proposition: "The constitutional amendment relating to an
7 individual's or religious organization's freedom of religion."