1	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION
2	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
3	1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)
4	ENGROSSED SENATE
5	JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22 By: McCortney of the Senate
6	and
7	McCall of the House
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10	A Joint Resolution disapproving certain proposed amendments to Rules of the Ethics Commission as
11	submitted to the Legislature on February 4, 2019.
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14	WHEREAS, pursuant to its authority under Article XXIX of the
15	Oklahoma Constitution, on February 4, 2019, the Ethics Commission
16	submitted proposed rule amendments to the Legislature; and
17	WHEREAS, pursuant to subsection C of Section 3 of Article XXIX
18	of the Oklahoma Constitution, the Legislature may, by joint
19	resolution, disapprove any rules promulgated by the Ethics
20	Commission during the legislative session in which these rules were
21	submitted; and
22	WHEREAS, at its public hearings as required in subsection B of
23	Section 3 of Article XXIX of the Oklahoma Constitution, the Ethics
24	Commission received numerous comments and testimony from persons

affected by the proposed rule amendments which expressed concerns regarding the changes, including but not limited to concerns that the Commission may have exceeded its authority under Article XXIX of the Oklahoma Constitution which limits the Commission's authority to the promulgation of "rules of ethical conduct for state officers and employees" and "rules of ethical conduct for campaigns for elective office"; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Ethics Commission submitted rule 8 9 amendments which were questioned by the Attorney General, as chief 10 legal officer of this state, as exceeding the Commission's authority 11 with respect to protected constitutional rights of certain state 12 employees. These provisions, without corrections to address the 13 concerns of the Attorney General, were again submitted in 2019; and WHEREAS, other provisions submitted in 2019 could violate the 14 15 provisions of the United States Constitution by denying business, 16 professional and labor organizations the right to organize and sponsor candidate forums; and 17

WHEREAS, the Ethics Commission has disregarded public opinion and concerns as expressed by such comments and testimony, thereby risking legal action if the proposed rule amendments are permitted to take effect; and

22 WHEREAS, the Ethics Commission has cited no incidents of 23 unethical conduct on the part of state officers and employees which 24 would outweigh these concerns; and

1	WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that the 2019 proposed
2	amendments to the Ethics Rules are not consistent with the authority
3	granted by Article XXIX of the Oklahoma Constitution and the public
4	policy of this state, and are not in the best interests of the
5	citizens of Oklahoma.
6	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
7	REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 57TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:
8	SECTION 1. The proposed amendments to the following Rules of
9	the Ethics Commission, as submitted to the Legislature on February
10	4, 2019, are hereby disapproved: Rules 2.2, 2.33, 2.37, 2.41, 2.81,
11	4.18, 4.22, 5.3, 5.5 and 5.25.
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13	DIRECT TO CALENDAR.
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