

By: Metcalf

H.R. No. 1950

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than a century, the Legislative Reference
2 Library has provided invaluable assistance to Texas lawmakers; and

3 WHEREAS, Signaling to the world that the Texas Legislature
4 early on understood the need for expert assistance from
5 professional library staff and the value of a specialized reference
6 library, leaders of this state reserved a special place at the core
7 of the 1888 Capitol to house this vital resource for current and
8 future generations; the Legislative Reference Library was
9 established on the second floor in the north wing to assist members
10 of the legislature and their staffs, and its resources are also
11 available to the lieutenant governor, the speaker, and their
12 staffs, to the staff of the governor's office, to legislative
13 officers, agencies, and committees, to state agencies and
14 commissions, to librarians and legislators from other states, to
15 members of the press, and to Texas citizens; and

16 WHEREAS, The tools may change through the decades, but the
17 need for information endures, and the library's electronic data
18 systems currently expedite the delivery of knowledge to the
19 legislative community and the people of Texas in both direct and
20 indirect ways; the creation, compilation, and utilization of
21 information in a reliable and timely fashion are provided today in a
22 manner unimaginable by the legislature in 1888, yet the importance
23 of the library's continued proximity to the seat of Texas
24 government was reaffirmed during the restoration of the Capitol in

1 the 1990s, thus underscoring the intrinsic value of this treasured
2 institution; and

3 WHEREAS, The effectiveness of the library would not be
4 possible without the talented people who staff it; these
5 individuals provide in-depth analyses of legislation from all 50
6 states, respond to historical legislative queries, and create ad
7 hoc legislative statistical reports for staff in the speaker's and
8 lieutenant governor's offices; during legislative sessions, the
9 library plays an integral part in the legislative process; staff
10 develop electronic records in the Texas Legislative Tracking System
11 for each bill or resolution filed and furnish real-time information
12 to the legislative community, to executive agencies, and to
13 citizens of this state through such proprietary applications as
14 TLIS and TLO; and

15 WHEREAS, Stationed on the floor of the house and senate
16 chambers, library staff record critical legislative actions as they
17 occur, and they work closely with the senate and house
18 parliamentarians, the senate and house journal clerks, the chief
19 clerk of the house, the secretary of the senate, and their staffs to
20 ensure that these records are accurate and complete; library staff
21 members are also responsible for assigning and entering subject
22 terms and companion relationships to facilitate legislative
23 research, and they review enrolled legislation for the effective
24 dates of each measure; in addition, the library operates a
25 toll-free bill status hotline for the public; and

26 WHEREAS, As the statutory custodian of legislative records,
27 the library maintains the most comprehensive physical repository of

1 information relating to the Texas Legislature, including original
2 legislative bill files, historical and current publications of
3 legislative committees, state agencies, and institutions of higher
4 education, and legislative legal resources, journals, law reviews,
5 and periodicals; a circulating collection of materials is also made
6 available to the legislative community; and

7 WHEREAS, The library has undertaken an ambitious and ongoing
8 project to digitize historical legislative records and
9 information, including the house and senate journals, to ensure
10 that this information is available to scholars and the public to
11 foster better understanding of the history of Texas and the
12 legislature's role in that history; and

13 WHEREAS, Each business day, the library compiles select
14 articles from newspapers statewide for the legislative community,
15 and it generates weekly listings of important journal articles and
16 monthly listings of newsworthy additions to the library's
17 collection; the library provides accurate and up-to-date
18 legislative information electronically through a number of
19 databases; the Texas Appointment System contains information on
20 members of state councils, boards, and committees appointed by the
21 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker; the Legislative
22 Archive System holds the only electronic version of original
23 legislative bill files and documentation, while the Index to
24 Sections Affected is the sole source of information detailing the
25 proposed statutory effect of bills; moreover, the library maintains
26 Texas Legislators: Past & Present, highlighting legislative
27 membership information from 1846 to today, as well as a legislative

1 reports database covering that same period, and it archives
2 gubernatorial executive orders, messages, and proclamations; and

3 WHEREAS, Guided skillfully by director/librarian Mary Camp,
4 the LRL staff includes assistant director/librarian Catherine
5 Wusterhausen, administrative/legislative staff Michelle Martinez,
6 Kali Palmer, and Julia Walden, administrative staff Amber Baade,
7 Donald Brower, Christopher Taylor, and Jay Young, clipping service
8 staff Vincent Cowan, David Wood, and Karen Wright, and librarians
9 Elizabeth Buchanan, Linna Dean, Ali Dzienkowski, Sally Harlow,
10 Melanie Harshman, Mickey Lanning, Karen McBurney, Kaelyn Morice,
11 Ana Sifuentes-Martinez, Brandon Vasquez, Lindsay Wickham, and Ia
12 Wood; and

13 WHEREAS, These hardworking and dedicated professionals
14 demonstrate an unyielding commitment to excellence as they carry on
15 the long and storied tradition of their agency, and they may take
16 justifiable pride in the important services they provide to the
17 legislature and to the citizens of the Lone Star State; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
20 Legislature hereby honor the Legislative Reference Library and
21 extend to the staff members sincere appreciation for their
22 outstanding contributions; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for the library as an expression of high regard by the
25 Texas House of Representatives.