

By: LaMantia, Hinojosa, Zaffirini

S.R. No. 196

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A distinguished delegation from South Texas is
2 visiting Austin on February 22, 2023, to celebrate Rio Grande
3 Valley Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Enjoying a strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico
5 and along the Mexican border, the Rio Grande Valley was an important
6 ranching region when Texas became the nation's 28th state in 1845;
7 over time, the economy shifted from ranching to agriculture, and
8 the Valley became the state's center of citrus and vegetable
9 production; and

10 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, industry flourished and international
11 trade became increasingly prominent; the region has contributed
12 significantly to the tremendous increase in commerce across the
13 United States-Mexico border, with more than 1,152,000 trucks, 11.7
14 million cars carrying 24.3 million passengers, 28,000 buses
15 carrying over 300,000 passengers, and 6.2 million pedestrians
16 crossing Rio Grande Valley ports of entry each year; commerce
17 across the border averages more than \$140 million in goods and
18 services per day, with over \$51 billion in commercial trade per year
19 flowing across various land ports of entry; the Rio Grande Valley is
20 an economic powerhouse for the State of Texas with approximately
21 \$12.5 billion in taxable sales recorded in reporting year 2022; and

22 WHEREAS, The Valley has 1.4 million residents, with
23 approximately 600,000 individuals under the age of 25, and local
24 and state officials have focused on the need to expand access to

1 higher education and health care, strengthen the workforce,
2 increase transportation and ports of entry infrastructure, and
3 increase funding for public education; The University of Texas Rio
4 Grande Valley serves some 30,000 students; the UTRGV School of
5 Medicine is in its seventh year of operation with numerous GME
6 programs and patient care sites; in addition, the Texas A&M
7 University System recently opened its Higher Education Center at
8 McAllen, which is linked to the campus in College Station and will
9 offer programs in engineering, technology, biomedical sciences,
10 agriculture, and laboratory sciences; and

11 WHEREAS, The six higher education institutions in the Rio
12 Grande Valley, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Texas A&M
13 University Higher Education Center at McAllen, Texas A&M University
14 Health Science Center, South Texas College, Texas Southmost
15 College, and Texas State Technical College, serve a student
16 population of over 70,000; and

17 WHEREAS, Major sponsors for the day's legislative event
18 include the Cities of Brownsville, San Benito, Primera, Palm
19 Valley, McAllen, and Edinburg, ERO Architects, Gulf Aviation, the
20 Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, M&S De Leon Enterprises
21 LLC, RGV Grant Consultants LLC, Cameron County Drainage District
22 No. 5, Hidalgo County Precinct No. 4, JL Powers & Associates, Alamo
23 Chamber of Commerce, the Weslaco, Edinburg, Pharr, Mission,
24 Harlingen, and San Benito Economic Development Corporations,
25 Prairie View A&M University, Supporting World Hope, the Rio Grande
26 Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, VTX1 Companies, Texas
27 State Technical College, the Port of Harlingen Authority, Driscoll

1 Children's Hospital, the Brownsville Community Improvement
2 Corporation, Killam Development, Texas Gas Service, the Greater
3 Chamber of Harlingen, the Texas Oil & Gas Association, Texas
4 Regional Bank, AT&T, and Atlas Hall & Rodriguez, all of which are
5 promoting greater regional cooperation in the 21st century; and

6 WHEREAS, A vibrant region with a rich heritage, the Rio
7 Grande Valley is poised to take advantage of tremendous
8 opportunities for continued economic development, and it is indeed
9 most fitting to honor Valley residents for their dedication to
10 building a bright and prosperous future for the area; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature
13 hereby recognize February 22, 2023, as Rio Grande Valley Day at the
14 State Capitol and extend to all participants sincere best wishes
15 for a productive and enjoyable visit.