

1-1 By: Ogden S.C.R. No. 3
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed July 16, 2003; July 17, 2003, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Infrastructure Development
1-4 and Security; July 21, 2003, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; July 21, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, In the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the United
1-8 States Congress recognized the importance of a university-based,
1-9 integrated approach to homeland security when it required the
1-10 secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security to
1-11 establish university-based centers for homeland security; and

1-12 WHEREAS, Texas colleges and universities are at the forefront
1-13 of research on issues pertaining to homeland security, including
1-14 emergency response, food safety, transportation, border security,
1-15 information protection, and counterterrorism and have joined
1-16 together to maximize their abilities to meet state and national
1-17 homeland security needs; and

1-18 WHEREAS, The selection criteria established by congress for
1-19 university-based centers for homeland security include expertise
1-20 in training of first responders; response to incidents involving
1-21 weapons of mass destruction and biological warfare; emergency and
1-22 diagnostic medical services; chemical, biological, radiological,
1-23 and nuclear countermeasures and detection; animal and plant health
1-24 and diagnostics; food safety; water and wastewater operations; port
1-25 and waterway security; multi-modal transportation; information
1-26 security and information engineering; engineering; educational
1-27 outreach and technical assistance; border transportation and
1-28 security; and public policy; these criteria are epitomized by the
1-29 collective strengths of Texas colleges and universities; and

1-30 WHEREAS, Texas institutions of higher education have been
1-31 leaders on issues related to homeland security long before
1-32 September 11, 2001, due to Texas' unique possession of large
1-33 agricultural, petrochemical, maritime, and telecommunications
1-34 industries and major land and sea ports on the border with Mexico
1-35 and on the Gulf of Mexico, all of which are vulnerable to terrorist
1-36 attack; and

1-37 WHEREAS, The Homeland Security Act of 2002 required a
1-38 university-based center or centers for homeland security to be
1-39 established within one year of the date of enactment; now,
1-40 therefore, be it

1-41 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,
1-42 1st Called Session, hereby respectfully urge United States
1-43 Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to recognize
1-44 the expertise and resources represented by Texas colleges and
1-45 universities by designating a university-based center for homeland
1-46 security in the State of Texas; and, be it further

1-47 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-48 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
1-49 the secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security,
1-50 and to all members of the Texas congressional delegation.

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