

By: Chisum

H.C.R. No. 20

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, March 1, 2003, is the 40th anniversary of the  
2 agreement between the State of Texas and the U.S. Atomic Energy  
3 Commission giving Texas licensing and regulatory authority over  
4 radioactive materials in the state, and this occasion presents an  
5 opportune time to reflect on the development and importance of  
6 regulatory oversight of radioactive materials in Texas; and

7           WHEREAS, The Texas Department of Health (TDH) first became  
8 involved in radiological health activities in 1947 and during the  
9 next nine years conducted a series of short courses about  
10 radiological hazards, demonstrated the radiation hazards of  
11 shoe-fitting fluoroscopes, and adopted regulations governing  
12 radiation exposure; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1959 the Texas Legislature created the Radiation  
14 Study Committee to review all aspects of Texas' role in nuclear  
15 energy, and this led to the passage of the Texas Radiation Control  
16 Act in 1961 and subsequent creation of the Texas Radiation Advisory  
17 Board and designation of TDH as Texas' radiation control agency;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, On March 1, 1963, when the agreement between the  
20 State of Texas and the Atomic Energy Commission became effective,  
21 there were 520 active radioactive material licenses, and today the  
22 Bureau of Radiation Control, which administers the radiation  
23 control program for TDH, regulates approximately 1,550 such  
24 licenses and 16,000 registrations for use of x-ray machines; and

1           WHEREAS, Texas is one of only three states that also have  
2 regulatory authority over uranium recovery and low-level  
3 radioactive waste disposal in addition to the regulatory authority  
4 assumed by the signatory states under the basic agreement; TDH  
5 issues permits for uranium recovery, and the Texas Commission on  
6 Environmental Quality regulates the disposal of low-level  
7 radioactive waste; and

8           WHEREAS, Virtually every industry in Texas and many  
9 educational and medical facilities use radioactive materials, and  
10 the beneficial uses of radiation include diagnostic nuclear  
11 medicine, highway construction materials testing, pipeline  
12 radiography, emergency exit lighting, and malignant cancer  
13 treatment; and

14           WHEREAS, Texas' decision to accept authority for radioactive  
15 materials was a significant milestone that paved the way for  
16 subsequent efforts to ensure that the beneficial uses of radiation  
17 are maximized while unnecessary exposure to radiation affecting  
18 occupational workers and Texas citizens can be minimized; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
21 hereby commemorate the 40th anniversary of the agreement between  
22 Texas and the Atomic Energy Commission, and its successor agency,  
23 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and that it honor the  
24 individuals responsible for implementation of this historic  
25 compact.